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POLL RESULTS

Are you satisfied with Gov. Benigno Fitial's explanation relating to the temporary release of a federal detainee?

Yes	51
No	227
Somewhat	7

Sunday, January 24, 2010

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Year One

One year in, President Barack Obama faces a perilous economic choice.

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Survivor

As the Haitian government declares end to searches for people, yet another survivor was saved.

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Momentum

Jeff Bridges and Sandra Bullock claim top acting honors at Saturday's Screen Actors Guild Awards.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

NMC INTERIM PRESIDENT:

NO REHIRING of ex-employees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

As long as she is the interim president, Lorraine Cabrera assures that no individuals with previous "issues" with the Northern Marianas College will return and be rehired for any position at the college.

In a general assembly held Friday at the As Terlaje campus and broadcasted to the Rota and Tinian instructional sites, Cabrera specifically cited faculty employees whose contracts were not renewed by suspended president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

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> "It won't happen as long as I am the interim president. We're not going to re-employ former employees who have grievances and other issues with the college."
>
> —Northern Marianas College interim president Lorraine Cabrera

Froilan wants business fee hikes, work hour cuts

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) talks to reporters in an interview Friday at his office on Capital Hill.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) is looking at raising the fees paid by businesses and a 10-percent pay cut among government workers to generate additional revenue and trim government spending.

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'Impasse requires political decision'

- Manglona wants LB chief to finish contract
- Froilan asks Finance to stop paying Reyes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Reyes

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said yesterday he wants to move past the controversy over Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes by having House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) agree to allowing Reyes to work until the end of her contract on Sept. 30, 2010, or having the matter resolved by

See IMPASSE on Page 4

BoG: CPA still on 'watch list'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is still on the Bank of Guam's watch list due to its continued failure to meet the requirements set by its bond indenture agreements, according to bank vice president and manager Frances Morgan Okougbo.

Addressing the CPA board in Friday's meeting, Okuogbo presented a list of items that were not being complied with by the ports management,

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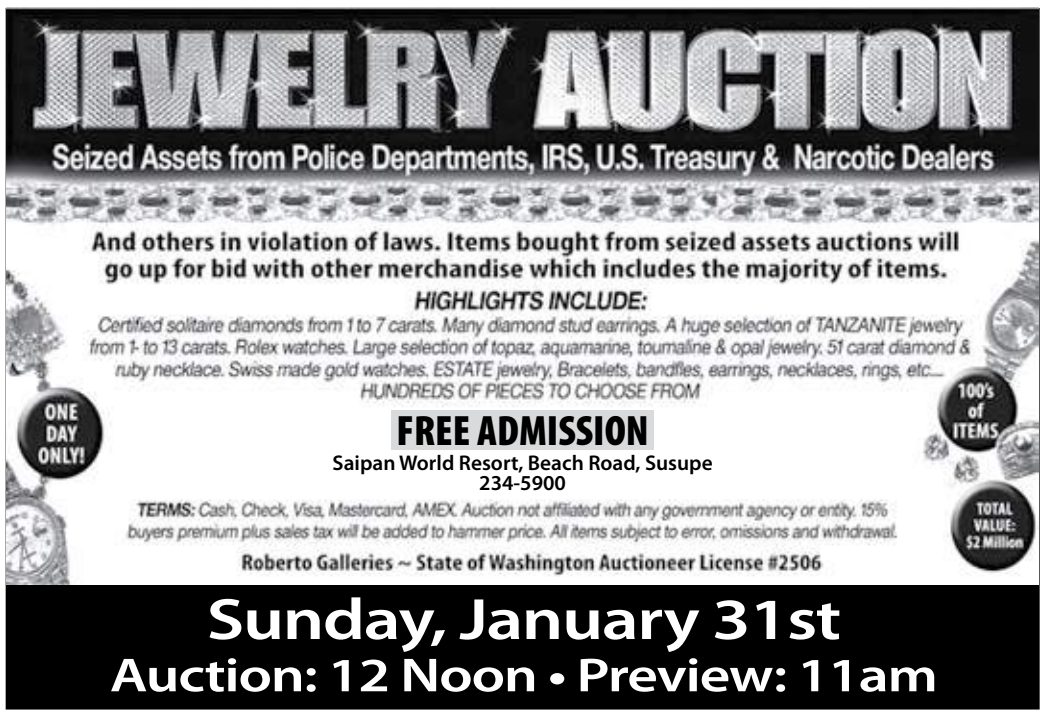
House minority to AG: Did Fitial violate any NMI laws? **PAGE 3**
Quarantine officer found dead at apartment. **PAGE 5**

Local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'SUBPOENA IS ILLEGAL'

OAG: Munson no authority to hold evidentiary hearing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U. S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson has no authority to order an evidentiary hearing in the alleged unauthorized release of a federal detainee from the Department of Corrections, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham and assistant attorney general David Lochabay, as counsel for DOC commissioner Dolores M. Aldan, also asserted that the subpoena is illegal and unlawful.

"As the court is without authority to assist the government [U.S.] in its investigation of the incident, there is no legal basis for the order for evidentiary hearing nor for the subpoenas issued by the court in connection with the hearing," they said.

Buckingham and Lochabay made the arguments in Aldan's motion to vacate Munson's order for evidentiary hearing and to quash the subpoenas.

The U.S. government had subpoenaed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Aldan, DOC Capt. Arnold K. Seman, Capt. Georgia Cabrera, and Corrections Officer Abigail Borja.

The U.S. government identified Aldan, Seman, Cabrera, and Borja as those who escorted Qingmei Cheng to Fitial's house in Gualo Rai in the early morning of Jan. 8, 2010, to conduct massage therapy on the governor. After administering massage therapy on the governor, the DOC officials brought Cheng back to DOC.

Cheng was among 24 Chinese nationals recently arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for allegedly trying to unlawfully enter Guam on a boat. The 28-year-old Cheng was indicted on 22 counts of attempting to bring aliens to the U.S. illegally.

Munson set the evidentiary hearing for Feb. 17, 2010, at the U.S. government's request. The proceeding's primary purpose is to find out whether or not there was anything that might have prejudiced the case against Cheng.

Buckingham and Lochabay said there is no basis for holding the evidentiary hearing.

They said the U.S. government does not aver that there is probable cause that the case against Cheng was prejudiced, nor even reasonable suspicion that such is the case.

"It is difficult to imagine exactly how these events could have 'prejudice[d]' the government's case against Cheng," Buckingham and Lochabay said.

They pointed out that Cheng is in the custody of the United States, has been charged with violating the laws of the U.S., the proceedings against her will be conducted by attorneys employed by the U.S., before a judge of the U.S., in a U.S. court.

Buckingham and Lochabay said the prosecution of Cheng is a matter completely beyond the control of Fitial, the witnesses, or any other person or persons within the CNMI government.

"It is entirely a federal matter and, even if Cheng had been promised the moon by any person or persons involved in this incident, it would have been an illusory promise and incapable of causing 'prejudice' to the case against defendant Cheng," the two government lawyers said.

Buckingham and Lochabay said news articles frequently refer to the "release" or "unauthorized release" of Cheng, although it is undisputed that she was never released and was accompanied by four DOC guards the entire time she was not in the prison.

"As there is no reasonable argument to be made that the incident or its aftermath interfered in any way with the jurisdiction of the court over Cheng's criminal case, together with the statements of the government about potential criminal prosecution, and the fact that the hearing requested is virtually without precedent, the question must be addressed as to whether the evidentiary hearing is simply a pretext for the gathering of evidence against some who may have violated the criminal laws of the United States," the two lawyers said.

Buckingham and Lochabay said this is buttressed by the fact that federal government agents have already interviewed Aldan.

"As it seems apparent that the U.S. government is investigating the incident, not necessarily as a housekeeping measure over the care and feeding of federal detainees, but also with an eye toward criminal prosecution, this raises the question of the propriety of involving the court in a criminal investigation," they said.

Buckingham and Lochabay said the grand jury, while empanelled and supervised by the court, is the only means for U.S. attorneys to obtain compulsory process to aid in their investigations of possible criminal activity.

They said the grand jury's secrecy prevents persons under investigation from becoming the objects of public derision and being pilloried in the media, as is currently happening to Fitial in this case.

"Sadly, it is hard to imagine how anyone connected to the incident could avoid the derision and stigma of the public after this media assault," the AG and Lochabay stated.

House minority to AG: Did Fitial violate any CNMI laws?

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House minority leader Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) formally asked Attorney General Edward Buckingham on Thursday to shed light on the issue surrounding Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's "alleged" unlawful order to release a federal detainee to provide him massage therapy.

"Accordingly, the House minority would like to know whether the governor authorized the release of a federal detainee for the purpose of receiving massage therapy," Benavente told the attorney general in a Jan. 21 letter.

The one-page letter asked two other questions from Buckingham.

"Secondly, did the governor violate any CNMI laws in the process? Finally, if the governor did violate a CNMI law, what has your office done in response to such violation?" Benavente asked.

Benavente

Benavente, a former lieutenant governor, said the House minority has thus far refused to comment on inquiries regarding the release of the detainee as they have not received any official statement from the Fitial administration or any other local or federal agency on the matter.

The House minority bloc has nine members in the 20-member House of Representatives.

In a meeting last week, members of the minority bloc agreed to let Benavente speak on behalf of the group on matters concerning the governor's alleged order to temporary release Qingmei Cheng, 28, from prison to provide him massage at his private residence in Gualo Rai in the early morning of Jan. 8.

But it's not only the House minority bloc that's taking a wait-and-see approach on the issue of whether or not an investigation or hearing should be conducted by the Legislature on possible ethical or other violation committed by the governor as well as Corrections Commissioner Dolores M. Aldan for the temporarily release of a masseuse being held on smuggling charges.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the issue is under federal jurisdiction because the inmate is a federal detainee.

Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations chair Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) said the committee will wait for any federal investigation into the alleged unauthorized release of the jailed masseuse before taking action.

"At this time, I don't want to interfere with any federal investigation. Once they're done, I will sit with other members of the committee and decide what we should do," he told *Saipan Tribune*. But Cruz said in general, "nobody is above the law."

The EAGI Committee handles, among other things, investigations on alleged criminal acts of government corruption and related subjects.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), for his part, earlier asked people not to rush judgment, asking them to know all the facts first. He had also said that it is "way too early to suggest" that Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos take over as governor.

The Office of the Public Auditor also leaves the issue up to the Office of the Attorney General and the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Among other things, OPA has the responsibility to audit the receipt, possession, and disbursement of public funds, and to initiate, receive, investigate and issue opinions on complaints of violations of the Government Ethics Code Act of 1992.

Suspected burglar claims he hit 'jackpot'

A suspected burglar claimed hitting the "jackpot" after breaking into an establishment in Garapan and stealing two flat screen TV sets and many other items.

A detective stated in his report that a "cooperating defendant" pointed to Daniel Robert Johnny as the person who burglarized Café de Colmar on Dec. 28, 2009.

The detective said Johnny apparently told the "cooperating defendant" that he hit the jackpot after stealing many items.

The defendant allegedly brought the stolen items to a residence in Upper Miha before selling some of them.

During Friday's preliminary hearing, Superior Court associate judge Perry Inos found probable cause to warrant the filing of burglary, theft, and criminal mischief charges against Johnny.

Inos ordered the defendant to answer the charges.

The judge ordered that the bail be kept at $25,000 cash and remanded the defendant to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher represented the CNMI government in the case. Assistant public defender Richard Miller defended Johnny.

Chief Prosecutor Rosemond Santos stated in the charging information that the defendant burglarized Café de Colmar on Dec. 28 by damaging the ventilation fan, door and window of the establishment.

Santos said the defendant stole a 50-inch flat screen TV, a 32-inch flat screen TV, a DVD player, a short-length necklace, a silver ring, two long-length necklaces, a silver anklet, a flashlight, ashtray, and four bottles of beer. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Fitial signs law on Northern Islands homestead program

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law a bill creating village and agricultural homesteads in the Northern Islands.

Fitial signed House Bill 16-146, HS1, SD1 into Public Law 16-50 on Jan. 15, the same day he also signed the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Act of 2008, which is now P.L. 16-51.

Although the new law refers to the Northern Islands only as "the islands north of Saipan," they include Alamagan, Agrihan and Pagan.

The measure, authored by former Reps. Justo S. Quitugua, Oscar M. Babauta, and Joseph N. Camacho, said there are public lands available in the Northern Islands that may be designated by the Department of Public Lands for village and agricultural homesteading programs, and for public facilities and commercial activities to meet the needs of the residents of Northern Islands.

It also said that it's in the best interest of the CNMI that Northern Islands residents who meet the requirements of the Homestead Waiver Act be issued by DPL with deed and title to the properties they have lived on for decades.

Under the new law, those eligible to be part of the homestead program are Northern Islands residents currently residing or have resided on these islands without any approved village or agricultural homestead lots, and those qualified persons interested in residing on the islands north of Saipan.

The new law also enables Northern Islands residents who are holder of a homestead permit to avail of housing loan, allowing them to borrow money and build a safe, decent, and sanitary home for their families.

With P.L. 16-50 also comes the initiation and promotion of economic development in the Northern Islands through long-term commercial land leases to sustain more permanent settlements and to make these islands socially and economically active and eventually contribute to the CNMI economy.

As of now, only a handful of individuals live on the islands north of Saipan because of volcanic activities. Pagan, for example, is still under a state of emergency due to volcanic eruption.

BOG

From Page 1

including the monthly submission of CPA's financial records, a budget proposal for the current fiscal year, quarterly projections, the final 2008 audited report, and the instability of the comptroller position at the agency.

"Please be reminded that CPA is on trustee watch list," she told the board, emphasizing the need to address the things that would help the agency get out of the list.

BOG is the trustee for the airport and seaport revenue bonds.

Ukuogbo said the bank wants a copy of CPA's monthly financial statements as CPA has failed to meet its debt service coverage ratio of 1.25 in the past three consecutive years. Ukuogbo said this monthly submission of CPA "actual revenue" financials must be certified and provided in conjunction with the agency's budget.

The budget was due to be received on or before October 2009.

The quarterly projection, she said, must also be provided the bank so it could track CPA's progress in meeting the required debt service coverage ratio, as described in the indenture.

She disclosed that the bank is also still awaiting the final submission of the 2008 audited report of CPA.

She urged CPA to exhaust all measures to ensure a smooth transition between the current comptroller and her incoming replacement and recommended an extension on Frances Mafnas' contract, set to end on Feb. 13, 2010.

The bank also wants CPA to obtain the services of former consultant Bruce McMillan for the correlation of data in the financial reports. McMillan was instrumental in recommending adjustments to a proposed 90-percent increase in seaport wharfage rates in March 2009.

Ukougbo also criticized CPA for still allowing "unnecessary expenditures" such as travels.

"What's going on here in CPA? Revenue is not here. You have to keep a good eye on those expenditures. You also don't have a consultant, which is a requirement in the indenture," she told the board.

CPA board chair Jose R. Lifoifoi said that, although the board appreciates the trustee's recommendations, the matter is still a "management decision."

"As long as we're meeting the debt payment …that's the most important," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

On the recommendation to extend the comptroller's contract and to tap the services of former consultants, Lifoifoi said the board is in the process of getting a new comptroller on board next week.

"If and when we feel that we need Ricondo or Bruce McMillan's service, then we will get them," he said.

IMPASSE

From Page 1

the Supreme Court.

"I hope this issue can be put behind us so we can move on to the tougher issue of our FY 2020 budget and the economy," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune.*

But the House speaker is not about to throw in the towel yet, asking acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack to recognize that Reyes's appointment expired on Jan. 11, 2010, when the 17th Legislature took office.

"Therefore, no payment of salary should be made to Mrs. Reyes for any period of time after that date," Tenorio told Schrack in a letter.

Reyes insists that she has a contract that obligates her to continue to work.

Schrack did not return calls for comment, but Tenorio said the acting Finance secretary does not share his position. He said Schrack told him that the only way Reyes wouldn't be paid is if she is terminated from her job.

The issue of appointing and firing the Legislative Bureau director needs the concurrence of both the House and Senate leaderships.

'A political decision'

Former Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan (D-Saipan), who co-signed Reyes's contract renewal in November 2009 with then House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), said yesterday that the "impasse on the two Houses not agreeing on who should take the directorship position is a political decision that must be resolved by the leadership of both houses."

Pangelinan, responding to *Saipan Tribune* questions over the weekend, said she was appointed by the 16th Senate leadership to represent them in signing on Reyes' appointment since Reyes is the wife of then Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), now Senate floor leader.

Palacios and Pangelinan signed Reyes' original appointment as Legislative Bureau director in October 2008. The term was effective Oct. 21, 2008 "and not to exceed January 11, 2010."

On Nov. 12, 2009, or just weeks before the Jan. 11, 2010, expiration of the contract, Palacios and Pangelinan extended Reyes' contract to Sept. 30, 2010.

Tenorio questioned the contract's extension well beyond the 16th Legislature, since the Constitution allows every Legislature to select its own Legislative Bureau director.

Palacios could not be reached for comment.

Pangelinan said it was Palacios who first signed the contract extending Reyes' term as director "and then I was asked to sign it."

"I did question my authority to sign it being fully aware that I would be committing a contract for the incoming leadership. I was told that it was not the first time that this would happen as a precedent had already been set. I agree with Senator Paul. The issue now is whether the contract that the Speaker and I signed is a valid contract or not," Pangelinan said in an e-mail response.

Tenorio said he might challenge the validity of Reyes' appointment and employment contract because the contract had only two lawmakers' signatures. He made it clear he's not challenging the contract's validity right now. "But later on, I might," he added.

He also questioned the motives of the former Senate president, Pete P. Reyes. "He had the guts to appoint her; he should have had the guts to sign that damn appointment," the speaker told reporters in an interview at his office on Friday. The former Senate president could not be reached for comment.

Tenorio, a former governor, cited Article II, Section 17(a) of the CNMI Constitution which states that "the bureau shall be headed by a director to be appointed by the joint leadership of the legislature consisting of the presiding officers, vice presiding officers, floor leaders, and the chairmen of the standing committees."

How it began

Tenorio sent Reyes a Jan. 20, 2010 memo asking her to vacate her office as soon as possible, citing the expiration of her appointment on Jan. 11, 2010. This has led to an impasse between the speaker and the Senate president.

Despite the impasse, Tenorio and Manglona said they hope the issue on the directorship will not affect decisions on other issues such as the budget.

Reyes is holding her ground.

"With all due respect to the former governor, I reported to work today because I have an existing contract that obligates me to report to work and perform my duties as required under my contract," she said in a statement released to the media on Friday.

Reyes said she will continue to work unless her contract is declared invalid or if the Senate president concurs with the House speaker's request to have her vacate her office.

"I acknowledge and respect the constitutional joint authority of both the House and the Senate to appoint and remove the director of the Legislative Bureau. I have not, however, received notification from both houses nor has my contract been declared invalid, thus, I will continue to report to work," she added.

Tenorio also wrote Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, acting Personnel Director Isidro Seman and Manglona, notifying them that Reyes' appointment as director expired on Jan. 11, 2010.

Tenorio appointed former Rota Rep. Daniel Quitugua as the new Legislative Bureau director, but Manglona said he as Senate president recognizes Reyes's existing contract as director.

FROILAN

From Page 1

"I know that we can identify additional revenues for one. So we have to ask the governor to revise his budget and maybe add another $5 million," said Tenorio, who has imposed on himself a deadline to pass a Fiscal Year 2010 budget within 30 days after taking office on Jan. 12.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had submitted a budget of $150.5 million for FY 2010 but the previous House and Senate were deadlocked on the budget, and the committee formed to solve the impasse decided to just pass the problem to the new legislature.

Tenorio, who served as the fourth elected CNMI governor from 1994 to 1998, said the current $50 business license fee, for example, could be doubled to $100.

"When I was governor [more than] 10 years ago, I increased it from $25 to $50, so for the past 10 years, it's only $50. Now I think it's reasonable to double that to $100. First of all, when you're applying for a business license, it means that you are going to make money and we're giving you the opportunity to get into business to make money and so on. I would say that $100 is not unreasonable," he said.

Tenorio also proposed an increase in the banking license fee, from the current $500 to $3,000 or $5,000.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce had strongly opposed a similar proposal last year to raise the annual license fees by 100 percent to 5,900 percent. The bill did not pass.

Under House Bill 16-217, the annual license fees would increase by anywhere between $95 and $3,000.

Wholesalers, for example, will be required to pay $3,000 in business license fee instead of the current $50, a difference of $2,950 or a 5,900-percent increase.

Offshore banks will have to pay an additional $3,000 to secure a business license fee, from $1,000 to $4,000.

The new House leadership is considering a similar proposal.

Cut other costs

But the House leadership is also looking at reducing the burden for the general public such as in securing a driver's license for the first time, which now costs up to $350 for a driver's education course alone.

"I think that's too much. We are going to reduce that. That's a necessity. It's not like you just can get a license without going through training as required," said Tenorio.

Public Law 15-25 or the Mandatory Driver Education Act of 2006 requires the completion and passage of a driver's education course as a prerequisite for the issuance of an initial driver's license within the CNMI.

Besides generating additional revenue, the House leadership is also looking at trimming costs by reducing government workers' salaries either through an across-the-board 10 percent pay cut or one unpaid Friday every pay period.

The government has been operating under a continuing budget resolution since Oct. 1, 2009, because of a lack of a timely passed FY 2010 budget.

NO REHIRING

From Page 1

"Students have a very valid concern and I assured them that it won't happen as long as I am the interim president. We're not going to re-employ former employees who have grievances and other issues with the college," she confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune.*

The general assembly had the students and faculty directly asking the interim president about their concerns and most of the questions were about the re-employment of non-renewed faculty members.

Cabrera emphasized the importance of the students' evaluation reports and grievances to the overall assessment of the faculty's performance.

"Our HR is very good at going into the files. If there are no grievance or anything on their files, they cannot punish the faculty or staff. This is one reason why I encourage all students to be very strong in their evaluation. If they have problems with the faculty performance, that's our documentation and we carefully look at those reports," she said.

Rumors spread on campus last week that some of the non-renewed faculty will be re-employed at the college, such as department chairperson Glenn Keaton and former medical health science instructor Dr. Elena Alexandrova.

Cabrera denied this.

"As far as I know, as interim president of the college, I have not signed any contract for Mr. Keaton and I am not even aware if he can come back as an adjunct," she said.

However, Cabrera pointed out that former employees and faculty are open to apply for the vacant positions and if they don't have any "grievance or issues" with NMC, they could still be re-hired if deemed best qualified for the job.

Cabrera announced Friday the hiring of one department chair this semester. Once processing is done, Cabrera said this will result in only three department chairperson vacancies.

Of the three deanships, only one position is vacant. Recruitment is being extended to off-island applicants, Cabrera said.

"We will not start the semester if we don't have instructors. We do have the numbers and we opened new classes," she said. The Spring semester began last week.

Upon hearing concerns from staff about documents being requested from the college, Cabrera instructed departments that, unless a written request is received from her office, no document will be issued to anyone, even to college employees.

"If the request is not coming from my office, then don't give out the information. I am sure a lot of people want to get information from the college…but we're trying to do things the right way," she told the crowd.

When asked how long she will stay as interim president, she replied: "I have no idea…but it will depend on the investigation being conducted."

She confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that she sometimes calls Fernandez whenever she has some questions about the college's operation.

Fernandez was indefinitely suspended by the Board of Regents pending the result of an investigation being conducted against her.

Quarantine officer found dead at apartment

A Quarantine officer was found dead in his apartment room in Susupe on Thursday, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David confirmed yesterday the Quarantine officer's death.

David said he is going to release today, Monday, more details about the incident as he only learned about it Saturday night.

"I don't know who found the body. It might be a suicide," David said.

The DPS spokesman only identified the victim as a certain Manglona from Tinian.

Sources said the body was already decomposing when police officers responded to the apartment.

Neighbors apparently became suspicious when they smelled a strong odor coming from the apartment.

Meantime, in the reported suicide of a former legislative staff at the Department of Corrections in Susupe after his bail hearing on Tuesday, David said detectives are investigating how the hanging took place inside the DOC.

David said the initial investigation showed that Walter David Deleon Guerrero used a bed cloth to kill himself.

"The case is under investigation," he said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Torres: Aldan's appeal persists in high court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The appeal of independent Northern Islands mayoral candidate Tobias Dela Cruz Aldan persists in the Supreme Court, despite a lower court decision that declared Ramona Taisakan Rebuenog a qualified candidate, according to Aldan's counsel, Robert Torres.

"All matters are now before the Supreme Court," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail shortly after Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman issued a decision on Friday declaring Rebuenog qualified to run for mayor of the Northern Islands.

"Of course Mr. Aldan disagrees and continues to take exception to the court's ruling. Thus the appeal persists," Torres said.

Last Tuesday, the CNMI Supreme Court ordered Wiseman to declare whether or not Rebuenog is a qualified mayor candidate for the Northern Islands.

The Supreme Court ruled that the trial court was required to determine whether Rebuenog is a qualified mayoral candidate when deciding the election contest.

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, associate justice John A. Manglona, and justice pro tem Edward Manibusan pointed out that this collateral issue—whether Rebuenog was a qualified mayoral candidate—must be answered before the Supreme Court can determine whether the trial court followed proper procedures in declaring Rebuenog the election winner.

The justices said they are going to rule on the remaining issues on appeal in this case.

In his Friday ruling, Wiseman said he finds that Rebuenog has satisfied the residency and domiciliary requirements under a statute that lists out the conditions an individual must satisfy in order to run for mayor of the Northern Islands.

Last Dec. 30, Wiseman declared Rebuenog of the Covenant Party mayor of the Northern Islands after determining that Rebuenog had the largest number of legal votes in the Nov. 7, 2009, election over Aldan.

This came about after Wiseman determined that 18 of the 21 questioned voters were not qualified to vote in the Northern Islands mayoral election. As a result of the election contest, Rebuenog defeated Aldan by two votes, 64-62, Wiseman said.

In the Nov. 7 general election, Aldan got 68 votes, while Rebuenog got 67 votes. During a recount, the Commonwealth Election Commission determined the same result and certified that Aldan had won the race.

On Nov. 12, Rebuenog sued CEC and Aldan, asking the court to declare her as the elected mayor of the Northern Islands because she had the largest number of legal votes cast in the election.

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Jose Lifoifoi named Palau's honorary counsel in NMI

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Republic of Palau President Johnson Toribiong has appointed Jose R. Lifoifoi as his country's honorary counsel in the Northern Mariana Islands. As such, Lifoifoi is expected to promote economic and trade relations between the CNMI and Palau.

In his letter to Lifoifoi, which the president personally handed to Lifoifoi early this month, Toribiong said that it is a great pleasure to name Lifoifoi to the position in recognition of his invaluable contributions to Palau.

Besides the normal honorary counsel functions, Lifoifoi is expected to establish contacts and identify potential investors for Palau among major businesses in the CNMI.

"On behalf of the government and the people of Republic of Palau please accept this offer of honorary counsel as a means of continuing and expanding our invaluable contributions to the growth and well-being of my country. You are truly a friend to the Republic of Palau," Toribiong stated in his letter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jose Lifoifoi, right, receives from former President Tommy Remengasau a plaque of appreciation for his continuous support and assistance to the people of the Republic of Palau. Lifoifoi was recently appointed honorary counsel of Palau in the CNMI.

Lifoifoi, in an interview Saturday at his residence, described the appointment and trust expressed by the Palauan president as an honor and privilege.

Lifoifoi has been traveling to Palau since the 1970s. He considers it among the most beautiful islands he has ever visited. He enjoys the serene beauty of the ocean and the vast marine resources of Palau that, he said, have captivated his heart.

"It's my favorite destination. Whenever I want to explore the ocean and waters, I travel to Palau," he said.

Lifoifoi, a native of the Northern Mariana Islands, was instrumental in bringing to Palau various religious replicas to spread and strengthen their Christian faith since the early 1970s.

He is known to many Palauans as someone with a big heart, who made the dream of many school children in Palau to have computers come true.

Lifoifoi was described as a consistent supporter of almost all community-oriented programs and projects in Palau, helping organize numerous fundraising activities for worthy causes.

Because of his close association with Palauan leaders, Lifoifoi also opened them to various ideas and concepts that would help sustain the economic needs of people.

Honorary citizenship

Lifoifoi is the first in the CNMI to be bestowed an honorary Palauan citizenship and he is only the second individual to have been given that honor in the history of Palau. Donald R. Shuster was granted an *honorary citizenship* in 1979.

Former Palau President Tommy Remenggesau also named Lifoifoi as the honorary consul of Palau.

Lifoifoi told *Saipan Tribune* he is humbled by the recognition and vowed to continue helping Palauans.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has permitted the establishment of a Palau consulate in the CNMI to better assist Palauans on the island. This consulate will be directly working and advising Lifoifoi on information and events about Palauans in the CNMI.

"I will do my best to attract investors to Palau. The island has a great economic potential and we will explore avenues to make it work. It is my desire to bring more employment opportunities to Palau," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that electronics business is among his targets for Palau.

This year, the 10-day Micronesian Games will be held in Palau in August and Lifoifoi is optimistic that this would have a significant impact on both the economy and tourism of the island nation.

Lifoifoi, who is married to Cecil Lifoifoi, is currently the chairman of the board of United Micronesian Development Association and the chairman of the board of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. In the past, he served as speaker of the House and numerous government positions.

INVITATION FOR BID

The United States Department of Agriculture/ Natural Resources Conservation Service will be accepting bids for Waterway A, B & C construction work for the Kagman Watershed project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Performance time is 760 days after the receipt of Notice to Proceed. A pre-bid meeting/site showing will be held at **10:00 am (Saipan Time) Friday January 29, 2010** at the Santa Soledad Church, Cha-cha Rd., Kagman. Submitted bids must be received before **2:00 pm (Hawaii Standard Time) Friday February 19, 2010** at: USDA Natural Recourses Conservation Service, P.O. Box 50004, Honolulu, HI 96859-0050. The full bid package and all other information may only be obtained and downloaded at the following website after **January 21, 2010.** (Hawaii Standard Time)

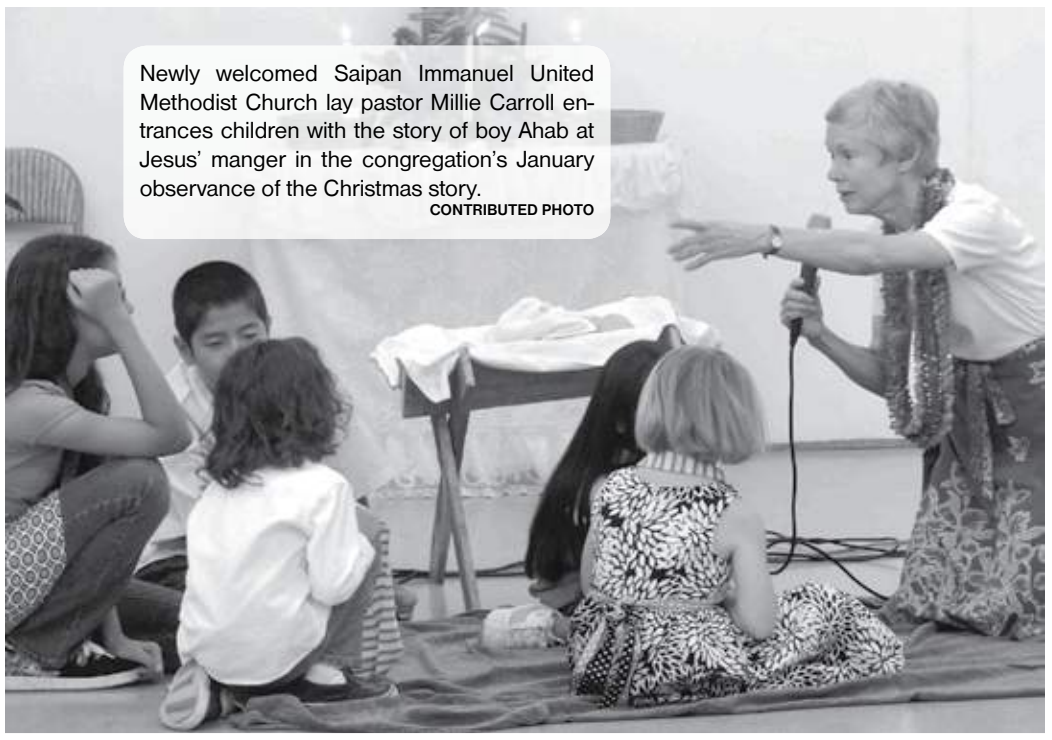
https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=main&mode=list&tab=list

(Search with solicitation number: AG-9251-S-10-0001, select packages tab to view full bid package.)

(NO HARDCOPIES WILL BE HANDED OUT):

This project is funded by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Immanuel UMC welcomes Pastor Millie



Newly welcomed Saipan Immanuel United Methodist Church lay pastor Millie Carroll entrances children with the story of boy Ahab at Jesus' manger in the congregation's January observance of the Christmas story.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A mixture of nationalities from Fiji, the Philippines, Tonga, United States, Thailand and China welcomed their new lay pastor, Millie Moore Carroll, at the Saipan Immanuel United Methodist Church Sunday worship service in Chalan Kanoa Sunday morning.

Pastor Millie is a retired missionary previously based in Hong Kong who served for a quarter of a century in the China mission of her denomination.

The Saipan IUMC is a member of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, one of the mainline Protestant denominations in the United States, with a fourth of its General Conference members located outside of the USA.

Pastor Millie is celebrating her first three Sundays with a rehearsal of the nativity story, cognizant of the fact that the Dec. 25 Christmas tradition comes from Roman observance while the rest of Christendom hold varying celebration dates, including summer.

In her talk with the children before the nativity manger, Pastor Millie related the story of young boy shepherds Ahab and David. Etymologically, Ahab is the term for one's uncle, father's brother. Using the two Semitic names in the story, one gentile, the other Jew, highlights Pastor Millie's commitment to peace, particularly to the divided and warring descendants of Israel and Ishmael in the Middle East.

Pastor Millie told members of the congregation that the peace in Jesus Christ is the power of love from forgiveness. "We have a lot of forgiving to do," she told the congregation, referring to its own congregational life as well as that of the community it serves. ***(PR)***

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Veterans Affairs Benefit Seminar
Tuesday, January 26, 2010 - 10:00 AM
"Applying for Veterans Aid and Attendance Pension Benefit"

If you are a veteran and need help with daily activities such as cooking, cleaning, dressing, driving, mobility, or other assistance, this benefit can provide the funds you need to pay for help.

This free seminar is presented by Michael Brown of Pacific Home Health Care, LLC.

Veterans and their spouses or surviving spouses can receive up to $22,000 per year to pay for at home health care.

Seating is limited. Contact Ruth Coleman of the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office at 664-2650 or Michael Brown of Pacific Home Health Care, LLC at 234-2273, to register.

Seminar to be held at the
Office of Military Liaison and Veterans Affairs
Capital Hill, Saipan

Pacific Home Health Care, LLC is a private commercial vendor of the VA Pacific Islands Health System

'Contraction likely for most of Pacific'

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—Although some experts say the full impact of the global economic crisis has not hit the Pacific, experts within the region say Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste are the only three countries in the Pacific that are likely to sustain positive economic growth.

This prediction is among a list of issues that will be discussed at the upcoming Pacific Conference on The Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis.

While the three economies may give a small window of opportunity for the Pacific it may also mean the impact for other Pacific island nations will be greater in 2010.

Daily Post has been informed that eight member delegations from 16 Pacific Island countries will be participating at the conference and a total of 200 high profiled delegates are expected to attend the meeting to be held in Port Vila from February 10 to 12.

The meeting will discuss ways to mitigate the impact of the crisis on various categories of vulnerable groups, including women and children.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Office in Port Vila will hold a media briefing with journalists about the upcoming meeting tomorrow.

The conference is organized by the government of Vanuatu with support from the United Nations Asian Development Bank, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the University of the South Pacific.

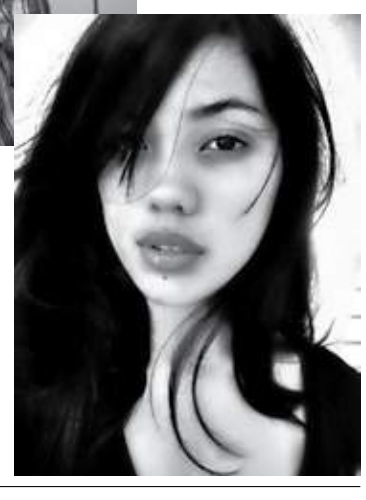
BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday greetings go out to Kaegel T. Taitano, who is celebrating his special day today, Jan. 25, 2010. He is shown in this photo with Pia Borja. "Wishing you a happy and a prosperous birthday and may all your dreams and wishes come true!" Greetings coming from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Alexandro-Ruben Amaro, who is celebrating his 7th birthday today, Jan. 25, 2010. Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Christhena, Alyssa, Jose, and especially from Mama, Papa, Inang, Tito Jhun and Tita Mavic.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy sweet 16th birthday to Deveney Dela Cruz. We are all so very proud of you and all of your achievements. We wish you many more wonderful birthdays to come. Love, from your Manglona -Dela Cruz family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Regular meeting Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes of Meetings:
  1. October 15, 2009
  2. October 26, 2009
  3. October 30, 2009
  4. November 09, 2009
  5. November 19, 2009
  6. December 10, 2009
  7. December 22, 2009
  8. January 04, 2010
  9. January 12, 2010
  10. January 12, 2010

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
- A. Report of the Chairman
  1. ROC No. 10-004
- B. Report of the Administrator / Correspondence
  1. ROA No. 10-004
     a) Status Updates
- C. Report of the Comptroller
  1. Financials
     a) NMI Retirement Fund
     b) GHLITF
     c) WCC
  2. Drawdown Requests
  3. CGECU Status Update
- D. Reports of the Committees
  1. Finance & Investment Committee
  2. Operations & Personnel Committee
  3. Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee
  4. GH&L and WCC Committee
- E. Report of the Investment Director
  1. Status of Investment/Market Condition
  2. Report of the Housing Loan Program
- F. Communications
  1. Internal Auditor Reports
- G. Other Matters

IV. LEGAL MATTERS
- A. Reports of the Legal Counsels
  1. Report of the Board Counsel
     a) Lawsuit
        i) Report of the Post Judgment Negotiation Panel
     b) Ratification of Co-Counsel
     c) Other Legal Matters
  2. Report of the In-House Counsel
     a) Update on Administrative Appeals
  3. Report of the Hearing Officer

V. OLD BUSINESS
- A. BR 08-001 Matters
  1. Pension Application Matters
  2. P.L. 15-98 / Refunds
  3. Disability Applicants
- B. MHL – Bank Pacific
- C. Life Insurance Update
- D. Health Insurance Update
- E. Civil Action No. 00-0409
- F. Second Fund Legal Counsel Position

VI. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Deputy Administrator Position
- B. Comptrollers Position

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
- A. Announcements
- B. Next Meeting
- C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-10-2301

For: Legal Services

Closing Date: February 12, 2010
Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to:
The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work and application for local preference at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 25, 1999

Federalization erodes affordability of homes

Construction cost in the Northern Marianas will increase by 30 percent if the federal laws on labor and immigration will be applied to the island, making it impossible for local people to build their own homes, according to the CNMI Contractors Association. In the event of a federal takeover, many construction workers will be able to get green cards allowing them to work anywhere in the United States. Since these skilled workers will not stay in the CNMI unless wages are comparable to Guam, Hawaii or the United States, local contractors will be forced to offer higher wages to retain them, the association said in a position paper submitted to the U.S. panel in the recently held 902 talks.

Legislators want labor reforms to continue

Leaders of the CNMI Legislature on Friday stressed the need to continue with ongoing labor and immigration reforms in the Northern Marianas despite failure to convince White House emissary Edward B. Cohen against a federal takeover proposal. They also expect to step up lobbying efforts against the move, beginning with the scheduled visit to the CNMI of U.S. House Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Don Young next month along with other key congressional officials. Apparently undaunted by the result of the 902 consultation talks held on Saipan last week, legislative leaders said they are taking Young's visit as another opportunity to defend the commonwealth anew against allegations from federal government that have prompted the proposed takeover of local immigration and minimum wage-setting powers.

Jan. 25, 2000

NMC okays transfer of SBDC to CDA

The Northern Marianas College has finally agreed to allow the transfer of the controversial Small Business Development Center to the Commonwealth Development Authority on the condition that the equipment will remain at the NMC facility until Feb. 15, 2000. NMC acting President Jack M. Sablan met with officials of the U.S. Small Business Administration in Guam where an agreement was reached for the eventual transfer of the SBDC to CDA. "SBDC will no longer remain in the campus because we have agreed to transfer it to CDA on condition that all the equipment will remain in the college until Feb., 15," Mr. Sablan told members of the NMC Board of Regents.

Loans eyed to augment government scholarship

The administration has completed drafting a proposal that will set in place a new scheme to extend adequate financial assistance to local college students without putting much pressure on the depleting public coffers. The proposal is now up for review by officials of the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College, as well as members of the 12th CNMI Legislature. Forced by diminishing resources, the government has been exploring alternative ways to continue providing local college students with financial assistance while assuring that funding for other essential programs remain in place.

Jan. 25, 2001

Students getting less from govt

Treading on a $36 million funding capacity under a continuing resolution, the general cost of sending one child to a public school shrunk by 4 percent versus the amount it took to subsidize a student's education in Fiscal Year 2000. This was revealed in the five-year local budget history of the Public School System. With a total of 10,004 students currently enrolled in CNMI public schools, PSS can only shell out some $3,602 per student, $150 less than $3,752 revenue per child in 2000. US mainland public schools offer individual public school students almost twice the amount apportioned to local students at an average of more $6,000 per year.

EPA stays shipment of PCB-tainted materials

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will not be able to implement yet its earlier ruling that will allow the shipment of polychlorinated biphenyl-contaminated materials from the territories outside the federal customs zone back to the mainland US for disposal. According to Michelle Rogow, EPA on-scene coordinator, the EPA office in Washington informed them about the decision of Bush administration to put on hold all rules that were signed by the Clinton administration before Jan 20, 2001 or a few days before the change in government.

Bordallo bill eyes plan for Marianas marine monument

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, who chairs the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife, introduced Friday a bill that would enhance the management, science education, and research advancement of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

Bordallo introduced the measure, called "Bonitan Tåsi" bill, in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Swiss scientist Jacques Piccard and U.S. Navy Lieutenant Don Walsh's successful mission to Challenger Deep, the deepest point of the Marianas Trench. Piccard and Walsh reached Challenger Deep, located 190 miles southwest of Guam, on board the bathyscaphe *Trieste* on Jan. 23, 1960. Their mission marked the first time that a manned vessel had reached the deepest point in the world's oceans.

The Bonitan Tåsi bill is aimed at improving collaboration between federal agencies and the governments of Guam and the CNMI in developing the management plans for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument established one year ago. Additionally, the bill authorizes the expansion and enhancement of visitor services, fish and wildlife research, and marine and coastal resource management at the Guam National Wildlife Refuge. Such enhanced programs and services, would be conducted in partnership with local natural resources management agencies as well as the University of Guam, the Guam Community College, and the Guam Department of Education, and serve to highlight the cultural, ecological and geological importance of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument and the fish and wildlife resources of the Mariana Islands.

Rep. Sam Farr of California, co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus; Rep. Lois Capps of California; Rep. Mike Honda of California, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus; Rep. Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii; Rep. Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa and Rep. Donna Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands are all original co-sponsors of the bill.

"The 'Bonitan Tåsi' bill will enhance visitor services, advance science research and improve resource management associated with the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument," Bordallo said. "The 'Bonitan Tåsi' bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to consult with the Government of Guam in the development of a Monument management plan, further develop visitor and educational services at the Guam National Wildlife Refuge, and collaborate with federal and local stakeholders to promote research of the waters surrounding Guam. This bill would assist in preserving the natural beauty of our island's waters, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue." ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC Alumni general membership meeting

There will be a general membership meeting of all NMC alumni (those who have graduated with NMC degrees or those who have earned at least 24 NMC academic credits) at the Pacific Islands Club Seaside Grill on Jan. 27, 2010 (Wednesday), between 5pm to 7pm. All NMC alumni are invited to attend. We will be electing new NMC alumni officers. Come and get re-acquainted with former classmates. Your presence is greatly appreciated! ***(PR)***

Registration for Adult Basic Education Programs

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education Program, which handles the General Education Development, the Adult High School, and the English as a Second Language programs, will be from Jan. 25 to 29, 2010. Registration on Jan. 25-26 is limited to ongoing students, while new students may register on Jan. 27-29. For more information, contact the Adult Basic Education office at 234-5498 Ext. 1723, visit their office at Building G at the college's As Terlaje campus, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

H1N1 vaccinations at GES

Garapan Elementary School would like to announce that the Department of Public Health would be conducting the second round of H1N1 vaccines on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010. Parents and legal guardians who would like their children to receive their vaccine for the first time can pick up a consent form at the Garapan Elementary School nurse's clinic from 7:30am to 4:30pm daily or call 237-3341 and have a permission form sent home with their child. Students who received the first round of vaccinations will be administered the second dose on Jan 27, 2010. ***(PR)***

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Purchase of 50 bags and more $6.30

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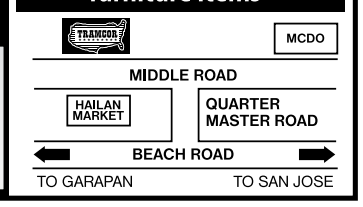

H1N1 Vaccine School Vaccination Campaign

Students and school staff who want to receive their H1N1 vaccine for the first time can also get in line!

Consent forms are availale at the school office. Turn in signed consent forms back to school before your vaccination date!

School Vaccination Schedule

January 27th – Wednesday
- Kagman Elementary School
- Garapan Elementary School
- GTC Elementary School
- Tanapag Elementary School

January 28th – Thursday
- Dandan Elementary School
- Oleai Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

January 29th – Friday
- Koblerville Elementary School
- San Antonio Elementary School
- WSR Elementary School

Rota, Tinian, and Private School Schedules are being finalized

Visit any health clinic to get vaccinated.

DPH will be back at the schools to administer the 2nd dose of the H1N1 vaccine to students 9 years old and younger
The H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and your best protection against the flu this year.
No consent form, No Vaccine!
CDC
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

For more information, visit the Department of Public Health's H1N1 website at H1N1dph.gov.mp or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The corporate soap box

You may soon be hearing a lot more from your favorite drugmaker or bank about which political candidates it favors and why.

That's the upshot of a U.S. Supreme Court decision on Thursday. The court in a 5-4 ruling overturned a century of law and said that corporations enjoy freedom of speech, including the right to bankroll political speech through paid advertising.

We understand the deep concern about this ruling. Bank of America and Pfizer have a lot more money than you do, and that means they can speak more loudly than you can at campaign time. A corporation with the will and the deep pockets could overwhelm a candidate it doesn't like with negative ads.

The bottom line, though: We're not afraid of information. We trust voters to sift through political messages, consider the source, and vote their best judgment.

It's not as though corporations don't already influence politics. They bankroll campaigns through political action committees, those though do have spending limits.

So what now? Will you start to see candidate endorsements on the back of Wheaties boxes? Probably not. But you probably will see more efforts by companies large and small to get their views—and their candidate preferences—across to voters. (Direct donations by companies to candidates' campaigns are still barred.) If Motorola thinks Pat Quinn shouldn't be governor of Illinois because of his stance on, say, texting while driving, then you may hear about that.

We suspect this means that candidates will have less control of the message in their campaigns. They're going to have new competition. Those with long memories will recall when then-Sen. Chuck Percy had to contend with a California businessman who bankrolled ubiquitous ads in 1984 that compared Percy to a chameleon.

We suspect this also means there will be pressure to raise the caps on how much candidates themselves can raise and spend. Those caps should be raised, or abolished.

Some analysts predict a flood of corporate political spending, with companies creating slick spots or hogging the air to make their case. But don't be so sure about that. If anything, corporate influence may become more transparent than it is now. A company that pours money into a campaign to back one candidate or slap another candidate, or that steps out in public to offer its views on an incendiary issue at campaign time, risks a backlash. It could lose a lot of customers who disagree with its views.

Take note: What the Supreme Court on Thursday allowed corporations to do in federal elections, they have always been able to do in Illinois elections. Yet we have not seen corporations mount their own campaigns for or against state candidates here.

In a dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens said the majority decision "threatens to undermine the integrity of elected institutions across the nation." We'd like to think democracy is stronger than that.

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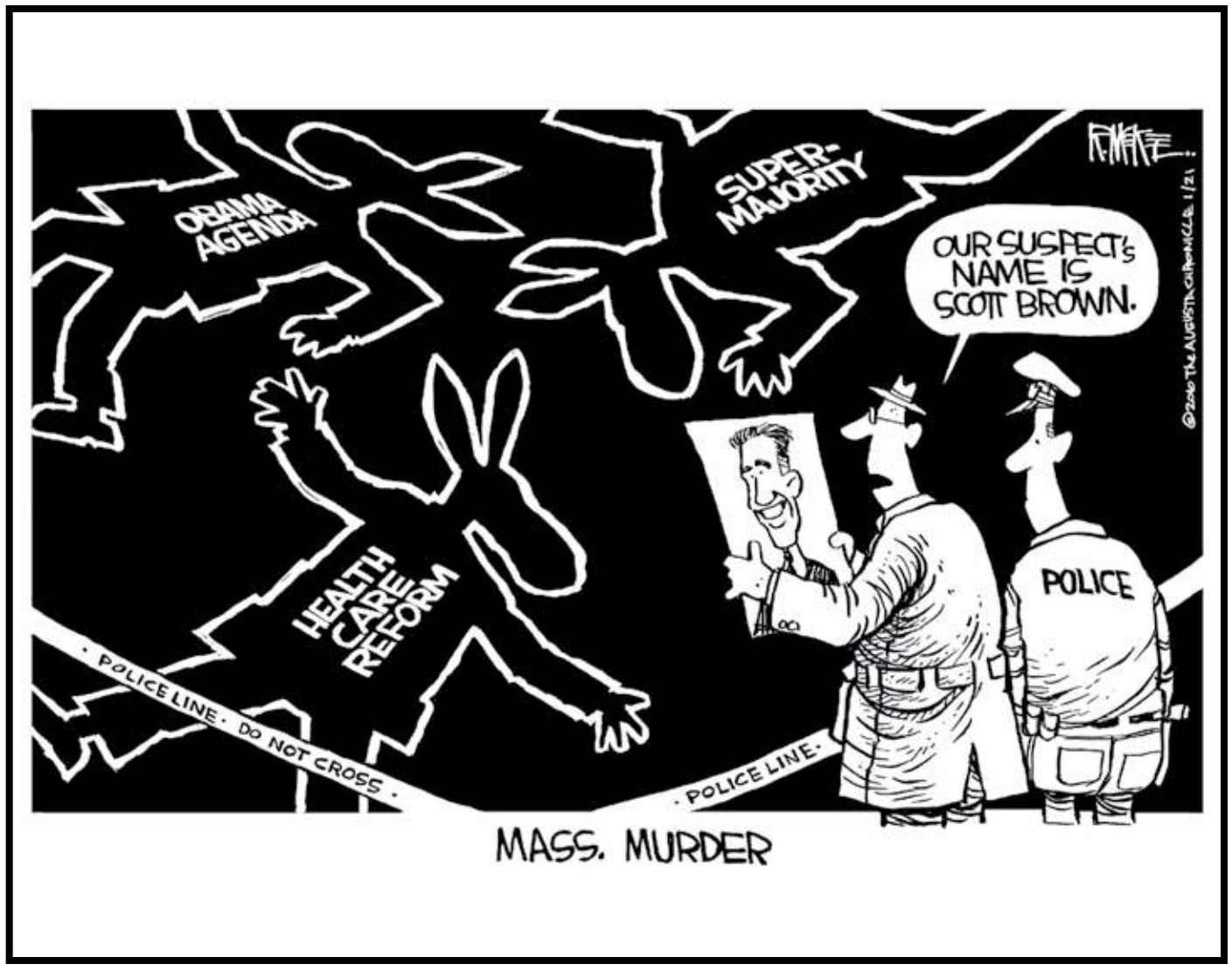


Let's talk with Janus, the two-faced god

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

It is now Jan. 25, 2010. Only a few weeks ago we were excited about the coming of January with its advent of the New Year. We made resolutions about how we were going to improve our lives. We determined to become winners in life. Okay, where are we with the resolutions?

The ancient Romans had an interesting god whom they called Janus. We know Janus now as the month of January. Janus had two faces: one looking forward and one looking backward. His faces appeared on doors and gates. He was considered the god of beginning and ending, and the god of exit and of entrance. When worshiping Janus the Romans would first look at his face that reviewed the past year. Then they would look at the face facing forward to the New Year. Let's stop for a moment and do the same as the ancient Romans.

2009 is only a few weeks past. Have we examined what we did in the past year to improve our lives, the lives of people around us, and the community in which we live? Did we read any books, magazines, learn new things, or learn new vocabularies? Simply put, what did we do to feed and broaden our minds? Before we make excuses, did we ever miss any meals when the need to satisfy the hunger in our stomach arose? I bet we fed and broadened our stomachs without fail.

In our work, what did we do to improve our efficiency or learn something new about it? Do we feel we have become a better employee? Did we examine our attitude toward our work and fellow employees? Have we improved this attitude? Or do we still feel that our employer, whether it is the government or the private sector, owes us a job regardless of what we do in that work? What did we do to improve our community? How many people's lives did we try to affect in a positive manner?

I could continue with this line of questioning, but by now you get the idea. Improvement is a continuous and gradual process. It is like a long journey but which seems to get longer the closer we get to the end.

Let's now look at the forward looking face of Janus. On Jan. 1, we made several resolutions. Now 25 days later, what has happened to them? Have we dismissed them or are we still struggling to make them become part of our lives? Only you and the god Janus know that. It is our personal life and we are responsible for its quality.

Now that we are in 2010 with almost the first month over, let's see what we need to do to improve our community. We have re-elected a governor and elected a new Legislature. There are familiar faces alongside new ones. How they all act and interact with each other will determine what the CNMI will become. But now we have a new player—the strong presence of the United States government. Do we consider the U.S. a threat to our sovereignty or as a way to improve our quality of life?

In my humble opinion the coming together of the CNMI and the U.S. will be a blessing in disguise. Let me explain why I feel this way. First, we became U.S. citizens years ago. Many of us like to travel freely to the United States. Some of us even have bought homes there and either have retired there or plan to do so. Our children attend colleges and universities there. After graduation many of them stay to work and marry, building new lives. The U.S. has become like a close relative.

We benefit from the granting of over $100,000,000.00 yearly from the U.S. without a thought of ever having to return a cent of it. And last year and this year we are receiving an extra stimulus amount of money also running into millions to further improve our community. Think about this?

Does any other island nation in the Pacific area receive the same benefits as the CNMI? Don't you think that it is about time we wake up to these facts? Don't you think that it is about time that the so-called "our islands" whiners start to understand these facts also? What do they have to offer us? Can you think of other reasons that we should be grateful for our relationship with the United States? True, there are some drawbacks but weigh them carefully with the benefits, then decide.

The longer we pull away from working together, the more problems we will have. We must understand what is happening to us. We must understand where we want to be at a certain point. If we do not, all the money, all the help will be of no avail. As the Bible tells us: "With all thy wisdom, get understanding."

Each of us has a duty to each other. Our governor cannot do anything unless we concur. Our Legislature cannot do anything unless we concur. Our neighbors cannot do anything unless we concur. In simple words—you and I have the power to correct or improve the life we lead and the community we live in. Help is readily available if we will only reach out for it.

The god Janus forces us to look back to see where we have come from and also forces us to look forward and chart a course of direction and action. Our behavior should not be shaped by who is the most powerful, or who stands to lose and gain, but what is right despite the costs. Our moral sensibility is what will make us suffer for our beliefs. This is why acts of principled self-sacrifice are so powerful.

All major changes in society come from the belief of a principle from an individual who has the courage to put that belief into practice regardless of price to him. We are surrounded by individuals who have the potentiality of greatness. Let me cite only one person here.

See LET'S TALK on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mild-mannered Methodist M

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

I called her a "mousy squeak" in a column in '05 when I commented on an NMICH-supported debate on a Legislative Initiative to ban same sex marriage in the CNMI. Millie Moore Carroll had the temerity to go against the tide of religious bigotry and heightened parochial frenzy, supporting the option of same-sex marriage on religious grounds. Or, at least, she provided the counterpoint to those who use Christian religious reasoning to oppose the recognition of same-sex unions.

Well, the mousy squeak is back. She is now the lay pastor for the Immanuel United Methodist Church of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, which gathers at the old Head Start building kitty-corner Karidat office at CK.

Methodists wear their compassion up their sleeves. Their evangelical seal includes running schools and hospitals, and showing works of justice, peace, and mercy. Two of its top executives in relief work, alive when found under collapsed concrete of a hotel in Haiti, sustained enough injuries to terminate their lives shortly after being found under the rubbles. Their demise mourned and celebrated, their work continues. Medical practitioners aligned with such groups as Partners in Health of Boston are already working 24/7 shifts in devastated areas in the Caribbean nation. Offering at Sunday's Immanuel UMC service went to Haiti!

Millie Moore returns to a trench-deep Marianas mess and moral quagmire. The Ombudsman count of more than 19,000 aliens when only 13,000 were recognized with umbrella permits prior to federalization is revealing. The difference is almost 10 percent of the population under the shadows of official cognition! A former RP Consul General, upon hearing that there were probably 22,000 Filipinos on island, genially retorted: "We only recognize 16,000." The headcount of what was then a declining resident foreign constituency was already high on the margin of error!

Only 20 percent of collected fees at Labor funded its operation, with the remaining amount going to the general fund. We've literally been living off the sweat of exploited labor! Now we have the added scandal of funds from a labor case judgment being parceled out to NGOs. New economists talk about a healing economy rather than a stealing economy. NGOs, whence the thick skin?

Now we have the recent "sting" operation to lure 24 Sino-desperados to cross the channel into Guam. The surprise is not that there were people who attempted; it is that many had previously succeeded. Desperate G-men are proactively enticing desperate aliens to crime. There are just too many people in the Commonwealth hopelessly waiting for the good turn, some willing to cross into a seemingly hospitable Guam that absorbs cheap labor to, *inter alia,* masseuse-serve Uncle Sam's relocating military forces from Okinawa and other locations in Japan to its shore.

The recent Guam-bound 24 whose female ring leader is now embroiled in a globally acclaimed Uncle Ben's Masseuse-gate, points to the casualness by which we do certain things "the island way," running into the strictures of puritanical accountability from the eastern seaboard of the US of A. In a culture where leadership as practiced, with barely a patina of democratic charade, understood to mean a privileged position to be honored, respected and served, Uncle Ben's actuation is perfectly normal. But Uncle Ben is no ordinary *mwar-mwar* bedecked *matai/kabua/matua/toomw,* which begs the question: What was he thinking? I hear echoes of the Philippine tradition of *Para que estamos en el poder?* "What are we in power for?" practiced by *insulares* and *peninsulares* during the Spanish regime, and evidently continuing to the present GMA administration, with the phrase popularized by then Senate President Avelino who blithely and arrogantly declared it before Malacañang Palace officials, lecturing President Quirino during his executive watch. Leadership so understood means that wielding of unquestioned power goes with the territory.

Corruption in Asia is, after all, a mathematical equation regularly exercised. If the take remains under the tolerated 10 percent of cost, then one remains within the pale of proper decorum! But corruption does not generate its own power. Tenacity to survive does. Anecdotal evidence speaks of a human smuggling offender making it to Guam after three attempts. After each detention, the person returned to China, got a different passport, and returned to try again. How easily can an official document like a passport be availed? Technically, it is only a click away; procedurally, a common greased palm practice. How easily can a trip be arranged? Oh, about $4,000 and a jar of Tinian/Rota chili sauce!

As a consequence of the practice of law by exception, widely observed in the former trust territories, Washington D.C. and American lawmaking suffers from an overdose of defensive mansion moat mentality. For every implementer of a mandated Act, there are 10 overseers looking over the implementer's shoulders. Vigilance in accounting as practiced is not necessarily to further transparency but to obfuscate or crucify; there are just too many legal minds bent on practicing on the side of the exception rather than the rule. Enactment of laws takes a snail's pace; implementing it takes eons!

Mild-mannered Millie returns to a time of societal dysfunction even as her own Church's admirable "open hearts, open minds, open doors" policy is observed more in the breach than in the performance. Divided over issues like same-sex union, which is sending Uganda into legalized hatred and Nepal into a Shangri-La consent in the furtherance of commercial tourism, the mousy squeak may just be back where she last left off, a raindrop in a sea of bigotry, religious intolerance, and war-mongering jingoism.

Mild-mannered but thoroughly Modern Millie may just turn out to be militant Millicent Millie, or, for the James Bond aficionados, a Methodist M in the Christian Service! Fearless and undaunted by physical discomfort, being herself a cancer survivor, she appears to have come to understand that "freedom is just another word for nothing else to lose." But for sure, throw at her a litany of prevailing social ills, and she will receive them with the total embrace of simple blessedness, look you straight in the eye, invite you to the grace of love that comes from forgiveness, and say, "Let us pray!"

Welcome back, Millie!

Abarambau Interu Elmundu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John S. DelRosario is the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Gi kada dos sientus añus, guaha siha ti komprendiyon na tinilaika gi maseha manu gi tanu. Mapredikta na para u mas maipe i klima. Atlibes masusede `nai manpinalopu munton ais gi enteru el mundu.

I pinetsigen tinilaikan sisteman hinemlu ni priniponen Presidente Obama, dimalas. I uttimu botu matgan ginen grupon Democrats gi sanhilu na guma Congresson Estados Unidos de America `nai mapedi kandidatun niha gi Estadun Massachusetts.

Mampus abarambau i asuntu siha. Mas attension mapega gi miproblema na priniponen sisteman hinemlu ke programan para adelantun chochu. Mas ke 15 miyon na tautau manlalailai pagu sin offisiu. Mas poduñg i konfiansa gi presidente. Mas ha luñu este na diskuidu chansan democrats sumustene mayoria gi Congresson America.

Umanog klaru na iya Washington tai konsensia tunas gi hafa sentimientun i tautau siha ni marepresesenta. Parehu atmos banda man-masañgañgane gi resuttan botasion siha na man-o`sun i tautau representante ni man-tañga, bachet yan udu. Lamegai ti para u fan malagu pot matuñgu na taya` konfiansan botadot gi kutturan iya Washington `nai mapetsisige asuntu siha ni ti appruebau gi tautau gi memegaiña na estadus siha.

Hombre ayu i mangaige giya America mampos dañkulu diniskontentun niha gi mañan representanten manma-elihe. Mauleg ta chule mismu maña para tana` tuñgu iya Washington na taya lokue inañgoghota gi manera `nai mafunas direchun natibu guine gumubietnan maisague.

■ ■ ■

Tautau Mona: Kumuntrata dos kompaire para u talaya. I unu nina maigu ni tautau mona ya hafa`gue` si kompaire. Humanau i dos ya sige madagau talayan niha. Ha repara i prohimu na munañaña i kineni` guihan gi lagua` kada mapega halum. Ya kadaratu ilegña i tautau ti mauleg, "balinhoña".

Mamaisen haf` kumeke ielgña i finonona. Ineppe ni tautau ti mauleg, "taiguenau para puno`hu nu hagu". Has eskusague para u falag i inai para u tinane`. Lau gigon ha gacha` i inai esta ume`ensinahyau para iya siha. `Nai mattu gi pettan gima niha, estaba esta i tautau ti mauleg ya tinigus estake pininu`. Ti hu komprende hafa i moralidat este na estoria lau mauleg u guaha inadahe gi manmofona. Ai de dios!

Letter to the Editor

Calling the CNMI

I am no politician nor am I an expert on the law. However, I do not think it takes a genius to know the difference between right and wrong.

While I agree that we have to get the facts before we jump to conclusions or pass judgment, I do not believe that the unauthorized release of a detainee can be justified or that the situation can be sugar-coated or even covered up. Nor do I believe that a chronic backache is a good enough excuse to "bend the rules" and abuse your power, even with permission from proper authorities. It simply was not an emergency situation. And whether or not the detainee was ordered to the governor's private residence, the bottom line is that the request was made, otherwise she would not have been released at all to give that massage.

Furthermore, being "humane" does not mean we should allow anyone to break the rules. We are a community and are all affected. Nonetheless, it is our highest elected official, of all people, who should lead by example and uphold the law along with the rest of us. And although we are all not perfect, no one should be above the law, regardless of the fact that we care about each other. Rules were set in place as guidelines for us to follow, mostly to protect us as a whole.

Though I may be thought of as childish for voicing my "opinion" at this point in time, I call it freedom of speech—my constitutional right. We all have opinions and I do not think we should be called "rabble rousers" for exercising this right. We do not necessarily have to agree with one another. I believe that a long forgotten fact is that we, the people, through our votes and as a whole, are the ones who gave power to our current leaders, to do exactly what their titles entail—*represent* each and every one of us; and they need to do it right. I hope that these representatives continue to have the best interests of the people at heart and not personal gain, and prove it through their hard work and actions so that they can earn the people's trust once again.

We are an intelligent and strong community and no matter what political party we may be affiliated with, we are not blind to the fact that an inappropriate act did take place. We do not know if it can be called illegal at this time, but we do know that it was wrong. I believe that we should all remain unbiased and open-minded, and keep our eyes peeled for the facts so we are not misled. The community should be ready to face these facts and deal with them head on, instead of turning the other way and allowing corruption and misrepresentation to continue. We are a small community but our voices are loud enough to be heard around the world. Ask yourself if this is the type of representation you were counting on and what kind of message we are sending to the rest of the world.

Sina Reyes
Dandan, Saipan

LET'S TALK

From Page 10

Last Monday, Jan. 18, 2010, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther Jr. If he hadn't had the conviction and courage that he did, do you image we would have a black man as president of the United States today along with major changes in our attitude toward other black people? He even paid for his conviction with his life. All of us possess the same seed of greatness if we truly believe in principles of what is good for our community and for our fellow citizens. Who will stand up?

The diamonds are under our feet. Are we blind to them? Are we too lazy to dig them up? Are we going to keep demanding that others feed us? Yes, I am preaching and will continue to do so until we wake up and start on the road to prosperity and self-help. Who will stand up and lead us?

Whenever someone says to me: "Well, what do you think this New Year will be like?" I simply reply: "A great one if you desire it to be and are willing to make it a great year." It takes one man or one woman to start a major change in our community. Who will begin?

Someone recently told me the following: " Walk toward the sunshine, and the shadows will fall behind you!" Why not join me in doing this and together let's make the CNMI, our home, a better place than it is? 2010 begins a new decade and hopefully a new beginning on the road to prosperity. Only you and I—together—can make it come true! As we face toward the sunshine, let the shadows of the past fall behind us. Let us accept the new face of Janus pointing to the future!

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼74°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼77
Yap	Windy	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

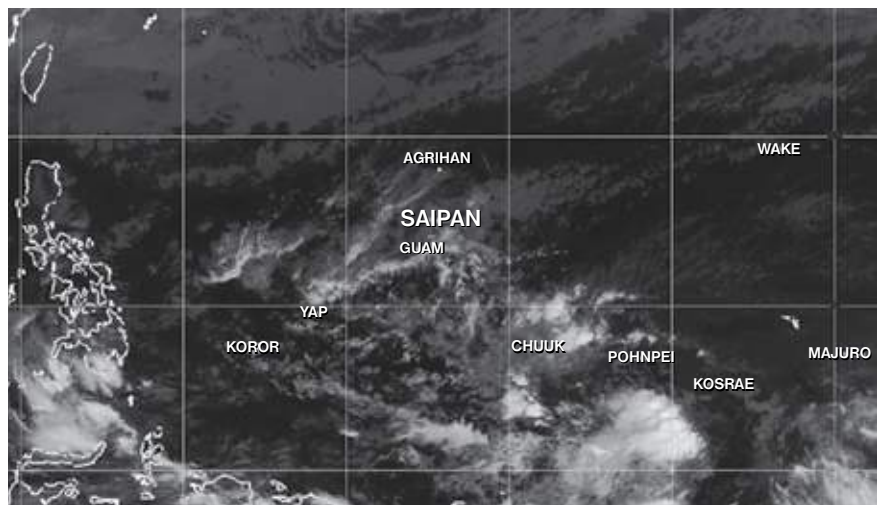
Auckland	Cloudy	▲74	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲34	▼20
Hong Kong	Dreary	▲73	▼67
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼68
London	Cloudy	▲37	▼25
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲64	▼50
Manila	Showers	▲88	▼72
Melbourne	Sunny	▲83	▼59
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼60
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼38
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲46	▼33
Paris	Dreary	▲36	▼19
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲50	▼30
Rome	Showers	▲50	▼48
Salem	Cloudy	▲49	▼37
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲57	▼50
Seoul	Cloudy	▲37	▼13
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲50	▼29
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲51	▼36

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:42 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
12:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:52 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts across the northwestern corner of the discussion area from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N160E to beyond 130E at 19N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and north of the front to beyond 25n. A shear line enters the discussion area at 15N180 and extends southwestward to north of Kwajalein at 10N167E then continues west-southwestward to end south of Chuuk at 6N150E. Patchy clouds with light rain are found along and up to 350 miles northwest of this feature between 180 and 160E. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from north of Halmahera through 2N130E to 1N145E then turns east-northeastward to a low-level circulation southwest of Pohnpei at 4N154E and continues eastward to beyond 180 at 3N. Interaction between the western end of the aforementioned shear line and the circulation near Pohnpei is creating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk and Pohnpei between 5N and 12N from 150E to 162E. Converging west winds along the southern half of the circulation are producing similar weather between the equator and 5N from 150E to 162E farther east along and south of the near-equatorial trough. Scattered showers are occurring over Kosrae, Tarawa and Butaritari atolls but south of Majuro or south of a line from 6N162E to 4N169E to 7N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:01 PM	1:26 AM
Tuesday	1:56 PM	2:26 AM
Wednesday	2:58 PM	3:28 AM
Thursday	4:03 PM	4:30 AM
Friday	5:10 PM	5:29 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 23, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Workshop on employment-based visas, advance parole

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter is hosting a half-day seminar titled "Obtaining Employment-Based Visas and Advanced Parole," that will be presented by Walter Haith, Guam/CNMI Field Office director for the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010, from 8am to 12pm.

This timely seminar is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn how to petition for an employment-based U.S. visa for any of the following four categories: 1) Professional workers, 2) Skilled workers, 3) Transitional workers, or 4) Religious workers.

Haith will also provide information on qualification criteria for each petition category, requirements for each visa classification, the validity of each classification, the cost of each petition and who must pay for it, and who can file a petition.

A presentation on "Advance Parole" will also be provided, which will cover topics such as how to apply for Advance Parole, the processing time involved, expediting a parole, and what information should be included with an Advanced Parole application. Any non-resident worker that travels abroad will need an Advance Parole to re-enter the CNMI.

The seminar includes refreshments, lunch, and handouts. The cost is $30 for SHRM members and $40 for non-members. Seats are limited so reserve your seat by contacting Polly Deleon Guerrero (SHRM CNMI Chapter vice president) at the Pacific Islands Club at 237-5122 or email Eric Plinske (SHRM CNMI Chapter President) at ericplinske@yahoo.com.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The CNMI Chapter is composed of human resource professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resource field. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(SHRM)***

HONOR ROLL

Saipan Community School Honor Roll for 2nd Quarter

6th Grade

"A" Honor (3.50-3.99)

Ji Hoon Lee, Quintin Ramsey, Tammy Ackerman, Jameson Kui Lee

"B" Honor (3.0-3.49)

Yong Heng Huang, Ju Eun Rachel Park, Mary Grace Tiglao, Jason Lee, Joel Jang, Jun Pyo Jeon

7th Grade

"A" Honor Roll (3.50-3.99)

Jee Hyun Lee, Emily Rose Dewitt, Steven Choi, Han Mil Oh, Rena Son, Lydin Jonson

"B" Honor (3.0-3.49)

Jehn Joyner, Yong Da Huang, Candice Reyes, Clayton Sablan, Rebekah Esplin, Xuan Jun Lu, Brianna Fajardo, Pedro Tenorio

8th Grade

"A" Honor Roll (3.50-3.99)

Magdiel Corpuz, Kanani Lee, Ericka Garcia, Enoch Lim

"B" Honor Roll (3.0-3.49)

Eron Constante, Michael Johnson, Valentine Paik, Sierra Calvo-Coleman, Yoon Jae Won

USDA awards $50,000 to UoG

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced yesterday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded the University of Guam $50,000 in federal financial assistance through the agency's Rural Business Enterprise Grants Program.

The funding is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. President Barack Obama signed this bill into law on Feb. 17, 2009, and Guam has since received over $168 million in financial assistance through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"The funding received from the USDA will allow the University of Guam to provide technical assistance to small business owners through its Small Business Development Center," Bordallo said yesterday. "The UOG will be able to continue its training of business counselors and entrepreneurs in financial literacy, strategic business planning, communication, and professional development through this Recovery Act funding. I thank Dr. Underwood for his work in securing these funds, and I look forward to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act continuing to benefit our island."

University of Guam president Dr. Robert Underwood said, "This grant will help small businesses take advantage of new opportunities and cultivate the next generation of entrepreneurs. The University continues to be of service to the island's economy." ***(PR)***

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-GOV-038

A&E of Puerto Rico Transmission and Distribution

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from licensed architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the Design of Puerto Rico Transmission and Distribution, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **January 11,2010**.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **January 25, 2010**, to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-305. Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"A&E of Puerto Rico Transmission and Distribution, RFP10-GOV-038".** One (I) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 10, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-GOV-039

A&E of Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from licensed architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the Design of Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **January 11, 2010**.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **January 25, 2010**, to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

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Proposals must be sealed and marked **"A&E of Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements, RFP10-GOV-039"**. One (I) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 10, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

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/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Business

1 year in, Obama facing perilous economic choice

By TOM RAUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—One year in, President Barack Obama faces a perilous economic choice. He can't pull back the stimulus too quickly, despite the public's concerns about rising deficits, because that could kill a fragile recovery. If he steps too hard on the accelerator to create more jobs, responding to another voter imperative, he risks feeding inflation and restarting the dangerous cycle.

The GOP Senate upset in Massachusetts shows that the political risks of any bold move are enormous.

Either way, the road ahead probably means painfully slow job creation accompanied by more government debt and higher taxes.

"Without significant changes to tax and government spending policies, the budget outlook will deteriorate rapidly even after the costs associated with the financial crisis abate," said Mark Zandi of Moody's Economy.com, a former adviser to Republican Sen. John McCain who now counsels congressional Democrats.

When Obama took office in January 2009, financial markets were teetering, jobs were evaporating and global economic activity was tanking faster than in the 1930s. A depression seemed imminent.

AP

In this Jan. 22, 2010, file photo President Barack Obama speaks at a town hall-style meeting at Lorain County Community College in Elyria, Ohio, as part of his "White House to Main Street Tour."

Now the economy is back from the brink, thanks largely to the most aggressive global government intervention in history.

"The economy is growing, albeit at an unsatisfactory rate," said Lawrence Summers, director of the White House National Economic Council. While chances of a depression are "remote," there is still "a long, long, long way to go," Summers acknowledged.

He said job creation will be the prime emphasis in the coming months, a priority to be reflected in the president's State of the Union address on Wednesday night and in his budget proposal released next month.

Even before Democrats lost the Senate seat long held by the late Edward Kennedy, the emphasis was beginning to shift from health care to jobs. The election race is accelerating the process.

"I think that is a wake-up call for everybody in this town," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said.

He said Obama will press for doing "everything possible to create an environment where the private sector is hiring again." Ambitious health overhaul plans are being scaled back, at least for now.

While White House officials still insist they inherited a broken economy from President George W. Bush, there's little doubt that people now fully see it as Obama's economy—and expect him to lead the way in fixing it.

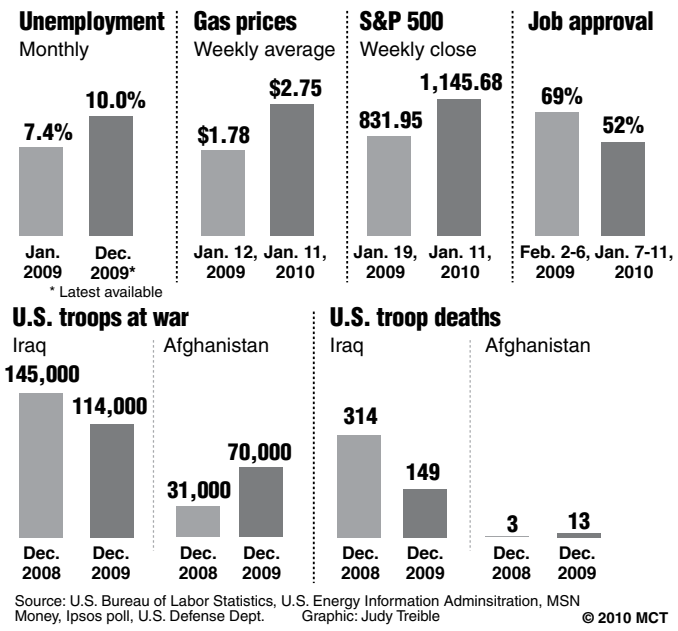
More than half of the 7 million-plus jobs lost since the recession began in December 2007 vanished since Obama signed the $787 billion stimulus package last Feb. 17. That aid was intended to help reverse job losses.

The unemployment rate then was 7.6 percent. Now it's 10 percent.

"If we as a country are not successful in establishing job growth and economic growth soundly, we will not achieve any of our objectives," Summers said.

Obama's first year

A look at some measures of how the United States has changed during the first year of Barack Obama's presidency:



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Energy Information Adminsitration, MSN Money, Ipsos poll, U.S. Defense Dept. Graphic: Judy Treible

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Obama endorses deficit task force

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama Saturday endorsed a bipartisan plan to name a special task force charged with coming up with a plan to curb the spiraling budget deficit, though the idea has lots of opposition from both his allies and rivals on Capitol Hill.

The bipartisan 18-member panel backed by Obama would study the issue for much of the year and, if 14 members agree, report a deficit reduction blueprint after the November elections that would be voted on before the new Congress convenes next year. The 14 would have to include at least half of the panel's Republicans - a big obstacle.

"These deficits did not happen overnight, and they won't be solved overnight," Obama said in a statement. "The only way to solve our long-term fiscal challenge is to solve it together - Democrats and Republicans."

The deficit spiked to an extraordinary $1.4 trillion last year and could top that figure this year as the struggling economy puts a big dent in tax revenues. Even worse from the perspective of economists and deficit hawks, the medium-term deficit picture is for deficits hitting around $1 trillion a year for the foreseeable future.

The White House has signaled that it will take an aggressive approach to the deficit this year; it's to be a major focus of Obama's State of the Union speech on Wednesday and his Feb. 1 budget submission.

Obama unloads on high court over campaign finance

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Saturday unloaded on a divided Supreme Court for allowing more corporate influence over elections. The White House and Democratic lawmakers scrambled to figure out how to blunt the impact of the ruling.

Obama used his radio and Internet address as a platform to expand on criticism Thursday's decision, which drastically alters the rules of campaign finance going into November's congressional elections. The 5-4 decision threw out parts of a law that said companies and unions can be prohibited from using their own money to produce and run campaign ads that promote or target particular candidates by name.

The justices also struck down a measure that had barred union- and corporate-paid issue ads in the pivotal, closing days of election campaigns.

"I can't think of anything more devastating to the public interest," Obama said. "The last thing we need to do is hand more influence to the lobbyists in Washington, or more power to the special interests to tip the outcome of the elections."

Obama promised a forceful and bipartisan response with Congress, but it is unclear how far any legislation can go in trying to undo the court's action.

Obama scrambles to revive economic optimism

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is seeking to reassure voters he's determined to create jobs while his administration is trying to protect an architect of the increasingly unpopular banking bailout that may have helped prevent a financial collapse.

Obama's efforts on the economy come after a Massachusetts Senate election this past week that suggested voter unrest when Republican Scott Brown claimed a Senate seat in Democratic hands for more than a half-century. Brown gives the GOP a 41st vote in the Senate, taking away the Democrats' supermajority and threatening Obama's agenda.

And the administration has been working to shore up eroding support for Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, who is seeking another four-year term.

In the face of daunting political conditions, Obama was sounding feisty as he told a town hall crowd he was more determined than ever to help the economy and pursue his agenda.

"I'm not going to win every round," Obama said Friday in Ohio. But he pledged, "I can promise you there will be more fights in the days ahead."

He tried out a revamped message focused mainly on the economy that is part of a stepped up effort to convince Americans that he's doing all he can to create jobs.

"This isn't about me. This is about you," he said.

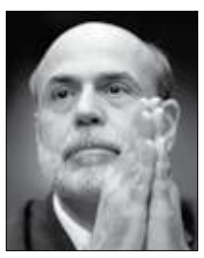
Senators assure Obama Bernanke to win 2nd term

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama phoned Senate allies Saturday as two key senators predicted that embattled Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke will be confirmed for a second term.

Obama made calls from the White House to members of the Senate leadership and others and was assured Bernanke would win confirmation, a senior White House official told The Associated Press. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private phone calls.

If Bernanke's nomination were derailed it would send tremors through Wall Street, which in turn could hobble an already fragile economic recovery and slow any comeback in the ailing jobs market. The mounting opposition to Bernanke was one of the factors worrying investors as the stock market suffered its worst setback in more than 10 months this week, losing 552 points from Wednesday to Friday.

Bernanke is widely credited with helping to prevent the Great Recession from turning into a second Great Depression. But his support of Wall Street bailouts has angered Americans who are struggling with double-digit unemployment and soaring home foreclosures.



Bernanke

Bernanke has become the focus of increased criticism since Republican Scott Brown won a Senate seat in an upset election in Massachusetts this past week.

The Senate is scheduled to vote on the Bernanke confirmation by the end of this coming week, said Jim Manley, spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Meanwhile, Senate Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd, D-Conn., and former Senate Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg, R-N.H., said in a statement Saturday that Bernanke is the right person to help guide the economy back from the worst recession since the 1930s.

Two other Democrats who had remained quiet about their intentions, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, and the No. 2 Senate Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, said Saturday that they will support him. Bernanke should not be the scapegoat for systemic failings, Kerry said.

Bernanke's term expires Jan. 31.

Already four Senate Democrats have said they would vote against the Fed chairman.

Bernanke has become the focus of increased criticism since Republican Scott Brown won a Senate seat in an upset election in Massachusetts this past week.

Dodd and Gregg - neither seeking re-election in November - said that "based on our discussions with our colleagues, we are very confident" that Bernanke will win confirmation by the Senate for another term.

"Bernanke has done an excellent job responding to one of the most significant financial crises our country has ever encountered," the two senators said. "We support his nomination because he is the right leader to guide the Federal Reserve in this recovering economy."

Nation

The Christmas attack interrogation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Badly burned and bleeding, the suspect in the Christmas Day flight to Detroit tried one last gambit as he was led away: He claimed there was another bomb hidden on the plane he'd just tried to destroy, officials said.

Abdulmutallab

There was no second bomb, federal agents learned after a tense search. But the Nigerian suspect's threat began hours of conversations that are now the subject of a fierce political debate over the right way to handle terrorism suspects.

In interviews with The Associated Press, U.S. officials described for the first time the details of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's arrest Dec. 25 at Detroit Metro Airport.

Captured after a bomb hidden in his underwear ignited but failed to explode, Abdulmutallab spoke freely and provided valuable intelligence, officials said. Federal agents repeatedly interviewed him or heard him speak to others. But when they read him his legal rights nearly 10 hours after the incident, he went silent.

Since the attempted bombing, several prominent lawmakers have argued he should have been placed immediately in military custody, and the nation's top intelligence official said he should have been questioned by a special group of terror investigators, rather than the FBI agents who responded to the scene.

The officials who spoke to The AP said on-scene investigators never discussed turning the suspect over to military authorities. And their accounts show that as the hours passed, the FBI turned to its own expert counterterror interrogators and made no effort to involve the special unit, because it was not yet up and running.

The officials provided an account of the law enforcement response to the holiday bombing on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose details of the investigation.

Here is what officials say happened:

Shortly after noon on Christmas, federal agents were notified that Northwest Airlines flight 253 had arrived at the Detroit airport from Amsterdam, with a passenger who had lit an explosive device on the aircraft.

After being restrained and stripped bare by fellow passengers and crew, Abdulmutallab was handed over to Customs and Border Protection officers and local police.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pa. man accused of looting crypt to stand trial

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania man has been ordered to stand trial on charges of looting a family's burial crypt that dates to the 19th century. A judge ruled Friday that there was enough evidence for 28-year-old John Paxson of Doylestown, in suburban Philadelphia, to face trial in Bucks County Court on charges that include burglary and abusing a corpse. Authorities accuse Paxson of breaking into the Doylestown Cemetery crypt of James Doyle, who died in the 1890s, and stealing a brass rail from the casket and copper. Cemetery officials say Doyle and eight others in the crypt are believed to be descendants of William Doyle, the pre-Revolutionary War tavern owner after whom the town is named. Defense attorney Richard Fink sought dismissal of the charges, saying prosecutors had not proven that his client entered the crypt.

Body of Arizona boy found by hikers

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—Arizona authorities have found the body of a 6-year-old boy who was swept away by floodwaters. The Yavapai County Sheriff's Office said Saturday that the body of Jacob Baudek was spotted by hikers along the Agua Fria River. The boy's body has been recovered from the river bank. Searchers spent Friday and early Saturday looking for the boy, who was swept away in rising waters about 70 miles north of Phoenix as his family tried to take him to a hospital because he was sick. The boy's father and sister were also swept by the current, but managed to get to safety. Sheriff's spokesman Dwight D'Evelyn said the boy had been presumed dead. Authorities found the pajamas he was wearing and a backpack he was carrying late Friday.

2 killed when plane crashes in suburban Chicago

SUGAR GROVE, Ill. (AP)—Authorities say two people were killed when the small plane they were in crashed in suburban Chicago. Kane County Sheriff's Department spokesman Pat Gengler says debris from the twin-engine Piper Aerostar hit a garage at a house in Sugar Grove when the plane crashed Saturday. No one inside the home was hurt. Gengler says the plane had taken off from the Aurora airport, just a couple miles south of the crash scene. He says it was on its way to Denver. Authorities have not yet released the victims' names. Gengler says both of the deceased were men. Officials do not yet know what caused the crash. The National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration are investigating.

Chief backs 911 caller in Ohio roadside rape case

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio police chief is defending a driver who called 911 but didn't do more to stop a woman from being raped along a street in broad daylight. Toledo Police Chief Mike Navarre says the witness did the right thing and could have risked her own safety if she tried to intervene. In an interview with The Blade published Saturday, the driver said she feels guilty and hasn't been able to sleep well since the Tuesday attack. On the 911 call, the driver describes a man removing the pants from a woman lying on a sidewalk. Police say several other people called 911 but they weren't sure if it was a fight or something else. Police have charged a 15-year-old with rape and robbery.

Homeless veteran who saved 5 in fire laid to rest

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—Ray Vivier had been an adventurer, a Marine veteran who explored the country from South Carolina to Alaska, the father of five children.

The 61-year-old also was a man starting to get his life back together after living for years in a shanty beneath a Cleveland bridge. He had struggled with alcoholism, but by November he had a welding job, friends and a place to stay at a boarding house.

He rescued five people from that house when arsonists set it ablaze—but Vivier couldn't save himself. He and three others died, and two people have been charged in their deaths.

Vivier's body, unclaimed and unidentified for weeks, seemed destined for an anonymous, modest burial.

However, Jody Fesco—who met Vivier while she was volunteering at a soup kitchen and had even invited him to her wedding—heard that Vivier may have died. Fesco and her husband contacted their friend Haraz Ghanbari, an Associated Press photographer, about the situation. Ghanbari took the lead to make sure Vivier wasn't forgotten, tracking down the family members and arranging a proper funeral.

On Friday, Vivier's ashes were inurned at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

"You can see from what he did that he definitely had a good heart," said Mercedes Cruz, Vivier's ex-wife of 23 years, who attended the funeral with the couple's children. "No matter what our difficulties were in our marriage, I'm very proud of what's happened."

For his grown children—who now are scattered around the country—Vivier had been gone for about 15 years. They know of his heroism now—but they don't know much about the man he was trying to become. They remember their dad's struggles with alcohol and other troubles.

Oil spilled at east Texas port as ships collide

PORT ARTHUR, Texas (AP)—As much as 450,000 gallons of crude oil may have spilled in a southeast Texas port when two vessels collided Saturday morning, but it's unclear whether that much actually leaked from the damaged tank, a U.S. Coast Guard official said.

AP
A barge is seen engaged with Eagle Otome after the two vessels collided causing as much as 450,000 gallons of crude oil to spill, according to the U.S. Coast Guard, on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010, in Port Arthur, Texas.

No one was injured in the collision, but the Port of Port Arthur was closed and some nearby residents were evacuated for about seven hours.

Coast Guard officials would not say late Saturday when the size of the oil spill would be determined or how long the cleanup would take.

According to Petty Officer Richard Brahm, the ship's crew members said they pumped 69,000 barrels from the damaged tank that carried 80,000 barrels, so they have 11,000 barrels—about 450,000 gallons—that they can't account for.

Several local officials said only 1,000 barrels, or about 42,000 gallons, of oil had been spilled into the water.

Brahm acknowledged that it doesn't look like hundreds of thousands of gallons of crude was in the water. He said some might still be in the damaged tank.

"We can't get in there and look at it," he said.

Fewer than 100 people were evacuated from the area following the collision, but they were allowed to go home by Saturday evening.

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Asia

NKorea: Pre-emptive strike from SKorea would be war

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea warned Sunday it would consider any pre-emptive strike by South Korea a declaration of war—the latest salvo in a battle of rhetoric even as the rival nations showed signs of cooperating after months of tension over the North's nuclear program.

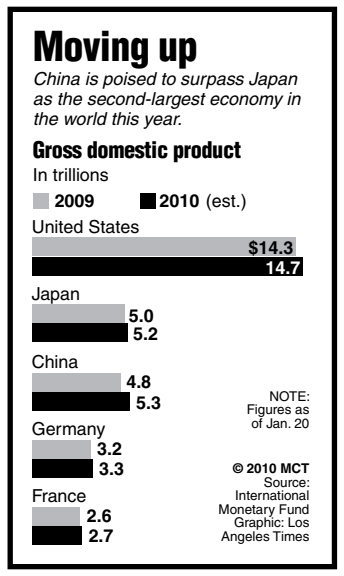
The North's military also said it would take prompt and decisive military action against any South Korean attempt to violate North Korea's dignity and sovereignty and would blow up major targets in the South.

The two Koreas technically remain at war because the Korean conflict ended with a 1953 cease-fire that has never been replaced with a peace treaty.

"Our revolutionary armed forces will regard the scenario for 'pre-emptive strike,' which the South Korean puppet authorities adopted as a 'state policy,' as an open declaration of war," the General Staff of the Korean People's Army said in a statement carried by the country's official Korean Central News Agency.

The North's warning came in response to the South Korean defense minister's remarks last week that the South should launch a pre-emptive strike on North Korea if there was a clear indication the country was preparing a nuclear attack.

Yet the North's military also renewed in Sunday's statement the country's commitment to improve inter-Korean relations in an apparent gesture to try to win economic aid from the South.



Hydro plant to help save RP rice terraces

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—International electric power producers have donated a $1 million hydroelectric plant to the Philippine government that will raise funds to help save the country's famous rice terraces, officials said Friday.

The 220-kilowatt plant donated by the nonprofit group e8 is now operating in the northern Ifugao province, home to 4,000 square miles (10,000 square kilometers) of steepling rice terraces carved out of the mountainsides some 2,000 years ago and irrigated by spring waters.

The terraces, the main tourist attraction in the northern Cordillera region, were included in the UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites in Danger in 2001 after about 30 percent of them were found abandoned. Damage to some of their stone and mud walls threaten to erode the mountainsides.

Johane Meagher, e8 executive director, said that the hydropower plant's $70,000 in annual revenue will go to a conservation fund to rehabilitate the ancient rice fields. The project will also showcase sustainable rural energy development, she said in a statement.

AP

In this undated handout photo provided by e8, a non-profit group of international power producers, the rice terraces is seen in northern Luzon.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Shooting near Freeport mine in Indonesia wounds 7

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police say gunmen have attacked a convoy of buses near the world's largest gold mine in Papua, wounding seven people including one foreigner. Papua police spokesman Col. Agus Rianto said the convoy was attacked Sunday morning as it traveled from the Grasberg mine to the town of Timika. He said those wounded included one foreigner, four policemen, another worker and a child. A spokesman in Indonesia for Freeport, the mine operator, confirmed the attack but refused to give further details pending verification. Rianto said the foreigner and two policemen were evacuated to Jakarta for treatment.

2 US troops killed by roadside bomb in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—A roadside bomb killed two U.S. service members in southern Afghanistan on Saturday as the country's top NATO commander acknowledged an increased risk to foreign troops will accompany an influx of reinforcements aimed at routing the Taliban. The deaths brought to at least 22 the number of American service members killed so far this month - compared with only 14 for the whole of January last year. A mild winter has brought no respite to the fighting, which traditionally drops off during the cold months. The south is the Taliban heartland and is expected to be a major focus of fighting as the U.S. and NATO allies send 37,000 additional troops to turn the tide of the war.

29 killed in clashes, suicide attack in Pakistan

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP)—Militants ambushed Pakistani security forces at checkpoints in two regions close to the Afghan border Saturday, sparking gunbattles that left 22 insurgents and two troops dead, officials said. Elsewhere in the northwest, a suicide bomber killed a police officer and three passers-by, part of a relentless wave of violence by al-Qaida and Taliban insurgents also blamed for attacks on U.S. and NATO troops across the frontier in Afghanistan. Government officials Mohammad Yasin and Mohammad Naseem said two troops were wounded in the clashes at checkpoints in the Orakzai and Kurram tribal regions.

World

Haitians mourn their dead; another survivor found

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Hundreds gathered for the funeral of the archbishop of Haiti's stricken capital Saturday, a rare formal ceremony that captured the collective mourning of a shattered nation where mass graves hold many of the dead.

Meanwhile, as the U.N. said the Haitian government had declared an end to searches for living people trapped in the rubble, yet another survivor was saved. Rescuers said they reached Wismond Exantus by digging a narrow tunnel through the wreckage of a hotel grocery store where he was buried for 11 days.

AP

A man is rescued by a French search and rescue team after being trapped in rubble for 11 days in the aftermath of the massive earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010.

Exantus, who is in his 20s, was placed on a stretcher and given intravenous fluids as onlookers cheered. He later told The Associated Press he survived by diving under a desk during the quake and later consuming some cola, beer and cookies in the cramped space.

"I was hungry, but every night I thought about the revelation that I would survive," Exantus said from his hospital bed.

Authorities have stopped short of explicitly directing all teams to halt rescue efforts, and hopeful searchers continued picking through the ruins. But U.N. relief workers said the shift in focus is critical to care for the thousands living in squalid, makeshift camps that lack sanitation. While deliveries of food, medicine and water have ticked up after initial logjams, the need continues to be overwhelming and doctors fear outbreaks of disease in the camps.

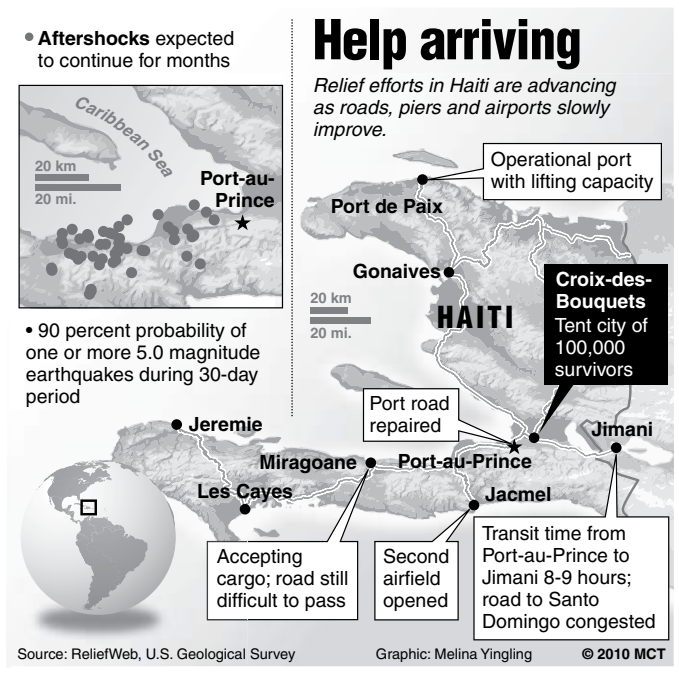
"It doesn't mean the government will order them to stop. In case there is the slightest sign of life, they will act," U.N. spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs said. She added that, "except for miracles, hope is unfortunately fading."

All told, some 132 people have been pulled alive from beneath collapsed buildings by international search and rescue teams, she said.

Experts say the chance of saving trapped people begins diminishing after 72 hours. One mother still missing her children said it's too soon to give up.

"Maybe there's a chance they're still alive," said Nicole Abraham, 33, wiping away tears as she spoke of hearing the cries of her children—ages 4, 6 and 15—for the first two days after the quake.

Only a small number of funerals have been held since the 7.0-magnitude quake struck, with most people buried anonymously and without ceremony in mass graves on the outskirts of the city. An estimated 200,000 people died, according to Haitian government figures cited by the European Commission.



US Marines' Iraq command ends; Biden in Baghdad

RAMADI, Iraq (AP)—The U.S. Marines marked the end of nearly seven years in Iraq on Saturday by handing the Army their command of Anbar province, once one of the war's fiercest battlefields but now a centerpiece of U.S.-Iraqi cooperation. The changing of the guard—overseen by military brass and some of Anbar's influential Sunni sheiks—signals the start of an accelerated drawdown of American troops as the U.S. increasingly shifts its focus to the war in Afghanistan.

American commanders are trumpeting security gains in places such as the western Anbar province as a sign that their partnership with Iraqi security forces is working, and that the local troops can keep the country safe.

But fears are growing about a possible resurgence in sectarian tensions—fed by the Shiite-dominated government's plans to blacklist more than 500 parliamentary candidates over suspected links to Saddam Hussein's regime.

In Baghdad, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden met with Iraq's leaders Saturday to try to alleviate the pressures. While he kept expectations of a breakthrough low—telling reporters after a meeting with President Jalal Talabani it was up to the Iraqis, not him, to resolve the issue—his visit alone underscored Washington's concern.

The White House worries the bans could raise questions over the fairness of the March 7 parliamentary election, which is seen as an important step in the American pullout timetable and a way to break political stalemates over key issues such as dividing Iraq's oil revenue.

Health & Fitness

Birth weights in U.S. are declining, study says

By JEANNINE STEIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Birth weights in the United States are on the decline, a new study has found. The report, released Thursday, found a small but significant decrease in average birth weights between 1990 and 2005, for reasons that scientists say are still unclear.

The numbers, published in the February issue of the journal Obstetrics & Gynecology, mark a shift from earlier reports, which had noted a rise in birth weights in the latter part of the 20th century. They also seem to go against conventional wisdom, experts said. In recent years, women have gotten larger, are smoking less and are older when they have children, all factors that contribute to higher birth weight in offspring.

The new study looked at records of 36,827,828 single full-term babies who were delivered between 1990 and 2005 in the United States and found an average 52 gram (1.83 ounce) decrease in birth weight during that period.

An even more dramatic decline was seen among a subset of women at low risk for small babies (women who were educated, married, white, didn't smoke, had early prenatal care and vaginal deliveries with no complications). On average, this group's babies weighed 79 grams (2.79 ounces) less in 2005 than 1999.

"We were startled by the findings," said senior author Dr. Emily Oken, assistant professor of population medicine at Harvard Medical School. "We tried really hard to explain it away, but we were unable to."

Details such as maternal age, race and ethnicity, education, tobacco use, when prenatal care started, and weight gain during pregnancy did not explain the observed change, the authors said. Nor did changes in rates of Caesarean or vaginal deliveries, whether labor was induced, if ultrasounds were done or whether the mothers had medical conditions such as high blood pressure, eclampsia and diabetes.

The scientists did find that lengths of pregnancies got shorter over the study period, showing an average decrease of 2.4 days in the general population. That may have been because rates of Caesarean sections and induced labor increased over time.

"If babies are born earlier, they're smaller because they have a little less time to grow," Oken said.

However, she added the shortened pregnancy duration only explained part of the change. The same trend was seen in uninduced vaginal births delivered at full term.

Oken believes the key to understanding the low birth weight trend may lie in what wasn't studied.

"I think it could be some characteristics of the mothers that are changing that are not being measured, such as diet, physical activity, or some other types of behaviors," she said. Environmental factors may also figure in, as may the fact that rates of obese and overweight Americans are beginning to plateau, which might in turn affect the weight of their babies.

The small decline in birth weight isn't enough to be concerned about yet, said Dr. Carol Major, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of California, Irvine and a board member of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. "It's something that should be watched, but it's not likely at this point that, clinically, it's going to make a huge impact."

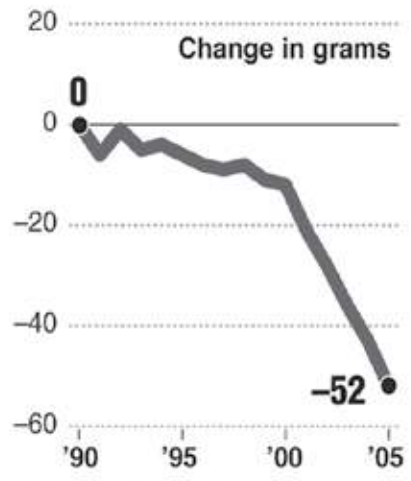
Underreporting of induced labor may be one key to the weight decline, says Joann Petrini, assistant director of research at Danbury Hospital in Danbury, Conn., and a senior adviser at the March of Dimes. "Cesarean sections are very well reported, but induced labor is less well reported," she said.

The bigger issue, Petrini added, is what the numbers could mean for the babies as they grow. Low birth weight babies are at a higher risk of death, and as adults they may be more prone to conditions such as heart disease.

"If we're seeing this decline in term babies, we need to stay vigilant on that, regardless of why it's happening," Petrini said.

Getting smaller

A study of about 37 million babies born between 1990 and 2005 in the U.S. shows a drop in average birth weight, which steepened after 1999:



NOTE: 52 grams is 1.83 ounces

© 2010 MCT
Source: American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Graphic: Paul Duginski, Los Angeles Times

How to...lose those last 5 or 10 pounds

By ALISON JOHNSON
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

Many successful dieters get stuck near the end of their weight loss journey, but nutritionists and trainers say there are ways to move past the frustration:

■ **Reconsider your weight goal.** You may have set your target too low. Think more about health and fitness level, as well as body fat percentage.

■ **Shake up your fitness routine.** When your body gets too used to one type of exercise, you don't need to burn as many calories to get through a workout. Add 10 or 15 minutes on an exercise machine, alternate periods of high and low intensity, walk at a brisker pace—or try something new altogether.

■ **Don't starve yourself.** Your metabolism will slow, which could lead to future weight gain. To feel fuller, add healthy proteins to meals and snack, such as a thin spread of peanut butter on whole-wheat bread or sliced turkey on a salad.

■ **Look for little diet trims.** Some examples: Eat one slice of bread on a sandwich instead of two, order a child-sized scoop of ice cream rather than a small, use less oil when you cook and switch to lower-fat cheeses.

■ **Beware high-calorie drinks.** Many dieters sabotage their efforts with coffee drinks, alcoholic beverages and smoothies full of fat, calories and sugar. Drink plenty of water and get specialty drinks with non-fat milk and no syrup added.

■ **Measure yourself differently.** Instead of obsessing over numbers on the scale, look at inches lost from your waist and hips and drops in clothing sizes.

■ **Get enough rest.** Too little sleep triggers hormonal changes that increase hunger and fat storage.

■ **Create a reward.** Have an incentive to finally reach your goal, whether it's a new outfit or a mini-vacation.

A new way to think about sedentary behavior

By JEANNINE STEIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

We haven't heard the last of the study on the possible association between long bouts of television watching and a shorter lifespan. The paper, released last week in the journal Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Assn., found that every hour spent watching television was associated with an 18 percent greater risk of dying from cardiovascular disease, an 11 percent greater risk of all causes of death, and a 9 percent increased risk of death from cancer. The link between TV watching and death from cardiovascular disease existed not just among the overweight and obese, but also among people who exercised and were at healthy weight.

The new data prompted Swedish exercise experts from Karolinska Institutet and the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences to write an editorial published recently online in the British Journal of Sports Medicine about establishing a new way of thinking about sedentary behavior. They suggest abolishing "sedentary behavior" as a synonym for not exercising. Instead, sedentary time should be defined as "muscular inactivity" to distinguish it from not doing any exercise at all.

Their recommendation is based on four principles: just sitting and not moving throughout the day may in itself increase the risk of disease; sedentary behavior is a separate kind of behavior with its own effects on the risk of disease, and is different from leisure-time exercise; the molecular and physiological changes that occur from sitting too much are sometimes different from the body's response to a period of physical activity; and those who are too inactive already will increase their health risks even more by sitting for long periods of time.

People should still be encouraged to get regular exercise, they add, but also to keep moving throughout the day. In the editorial they wrote, "Climbing stairs rather than using elevators and escalators, 5 minutes of break during sedentary work, or walking to the store rather than taking the car will be as important as exercise. In the demanding and stressful society of the present, to prescribe these low and minimally time-consuming efforts may encourage many people with problems in maintaining a sufficient level of exercise. Encouragingly, research has shown that simple forms of prescribing individualized physical activity in clinical practice has had a beneficial impact on exercise level as well as sedentary time."

Healthy Living

A tall, cold one

Yes, this refreshing blend of water, barley, hops and yeast can be good for you, provided you drink in moderation.

© 2009 MCT

A beer a day

- One study suggests that drinking a beer a day may reduce heart attack risk; another study found that heart patients who had a beer daily lived longer
- Beer is a good source of folate, an important B vitamin, as well as of niacin, magnesium and potassium
- Of course, while one is good, four or five aren't better; heavy drinking – more than 21 a week for women, 35 for men – can cause serious health problems
- Pregnant and nursing women, people with gout should avoid beer; diabetics, the chronically ill and those on medications should talk with their doctor

Source: Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, U.S. Department of Agriculture, About.com, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

Researchers say it's official: TGIF!

By SHARI ROAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

People are happier and feel better on the weekends, according to new research. Now that may be obvious to you. However, on closer examination, the study reveals some interesting observations about leisure time.

For example, everyone is happier on the weekend—even people who love their jobs and no matter what type of profession one is in or how much one is paid. The study found that people love the freedom associated with weekends and even feel better physically. Perhaps the most surprising finding is that people say they feel more competent during the weekend than they do while at their day-to-day jobs.

Researchers based their findings on responses from 74 volunteers age 18 to 62. Participants monitored their experiences three times daily for 21 consecutive days using simple forms or pagers.

The study reinforces what is known as the "self-determination theory," which means that well-being is based on one's personal needs for autonomy, competence and social relationships. People can tap into those needs more readily on the weekend. Conversely, they may experience time pressures, work demands and unpleasant relationships while at work.

"Far from frivolous, the relatively unfettered time on weekends provides critical opportunities for bonding with others, exploring interests and relaxing—basic psychological needs that people should be careful not to crowd out with overwork," the lead author of the study, Richard Ryan, from the University of Rochester, said in a news release. The study was published in the January issue of Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology.

The research reaffirms how important leisure time is to well-being. But, the authors note, it also shows that work really can be a bummer. "These results point to possibilities for improving wellness both through enhancing need satisfactions at work and providing more time for adults that is free from work," the authors wrote.

So, it's true. Down time is really up time. Enjoy your weekend. And if you're working, I'm truly sorry.

Life & Style

‘Inglourious Basterds’ wins SAG film award

AP

Jane Lynch, center, and the cast of “Glee” accept the award for best ensemble in a comedy series at the 16th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jeff Bridges of “Crazy Heart” and Sandra Bullock of “The Blind Side” claimed top acting honors at Saturday’s Screen Actors Guild Awards, building momentum for possible Academy Awards glory for the two stars.

“I love being an actor—pretending to be other people and getting into the shoes of other folks,” said Bridges, who plays a hard-luck, hard-living country singer in the drama.

Although respected by his peers, Bridges has largely been bypassed for major awards. Bullock also got a rare chance to bask in the awards spotlight, winning for her portrayal of a tenacious real-life mom, Leigh Anne Tuohy, who helped a youth in need, future NFL player Michael Oher.

Both Bridges and Bullock had picked up Golden Globes trophies for their roles less than a week ago. Backstage, Bullock refused to speculate on her Oscar chances in March.

“Shhhhh. Shhhh. Shhhh,” she said, repeatedly, to a reporter asking the question.

“I would be a hostess or a waitress or a house restorer before I ever considered myself an actor, because I never thought I was good enough,” Bullock added.

In another repeat of the Golden Globes, Christoph Waltz was honored as best supporting actor for his role as an energetically ruthless Nazi in the film “Inglourious Basterds,” while Mo’Nique’s searing portrayal of an abusive mother in “Precious: Based on the Novel ‘Push’ By Sapphire,” was honored as best supporting actress.

The cast of “Inglourious Basterds,” an off-kilter World War II revenge saga from Quentin Tarantino, won the award for best ensemble performance, a possible sign of the film’s Oscar chances for a best-movie nomination and nod for Tarantino.

“It was an honor to be part of it, Quentin,” cast member Eli Roth said in accepting the award for the cast.

The cast of AMC’s 1960s Madison Avenue saga “Mad Men” won the trophy for best drama series ensemble for the second year in a row, while 19 cast members of Fox TV newcomer “Glee,” about misfits in a high school singing club, accepted the award for best comedy series ensemble.

“Glee” is on a streak: It claimed the best comedy series award at the Golden Globes.

Alec Baldwin and Tina Fey of NBC’s “30 Rock” won for best acting in a comedy series, allowing Fey to get in a sly joke about NBC and its bitter late-night battle with Conan O’Brien in her acceptance speech.

“I just wanted to take a moment to say to everyone at NBC, we are very happy with everything, and happy to be there,” she said. Both she and Baldwin won the awards last year.

Golden Globe winner Michael C. Hall of Showtime’s “Dexter,” wearing a cap because of treatment he’s receiving for Hodgkin’s lymphoma, won best actor in a drama series. The award for best actress in a drama went to Julianna Margulies of CBS’ “The Good Wife.”

Kevin Bacon won as best actor in a movie or miniseries for the war-themed series, “Taking Chance,” while Drew Barrymore received best actress honors in the category for “Grey Gardens,” about eccentric relatives of Jacqueline Onassis.

Actors in two critically acclaimed films went home empty-handed, including “Up in the Air” star George Clooney and the film’s supporting actresses, Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick. The cast of “The Hurt Locker” also lost out.

Clooney, however, was lauded by SAG President Ken Howard for helping organize Friday’s telethon to raise money for earthquake-devastated Haiti, a rare reference to the tragedy.

Last year, SAG’s movie cast award was presented to “Slumdog Millionaire,” which went on to win the best picture Oscar. However, this year, one of the season’s strongest best picture contenders, “Avatar,” was not nominated in any SAG category, all of which are acting, perhaps because “Avatar’s” best performances were computer-assisted.

Two honors not shown in the telecast went to stunt ensembles for the film “Star Trek” and the TV show “24.”

Betty White accepts lifetime achievement award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Betty White accepted a lifetime achievement award at Saturday’s Screen Actors Guild Awards with the wit and grace that have punctuated her six-decade career.

White was the guest-of-honor at a gathering of Hollywood’s top actors and actresses. She walked the red carpet and was treated to lavish praise by her peers. She reflected on her career, which included roles on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show,” “The Golden Girls” and several film appearances. “Seventy-one years ago when I sang on an experiment thing and it was called television, who would have dreamed it would culminate in an evening like this,” White said after accepting her award.

She joked backstage that all the attention was going to go to her head. “I’m not going to be fit to live with the next few years.”

White, 88, accepted the award from Sandra Bullock after a lengthy montage of White’s work. The pair then exchanged quips.

Bullock joked that she finds White annoying, to which White shot back, “Isn’t it heartening to see how far a girl as plain as she is can go?”

White had only praise for Bullock backstage. “She’s the epitome of what a movie star should be,” White said. “She’s not only gorgeous and talented, but she’s also the most down-to-earth human being.”

Bullock and White recently costarred in “The Proposal,” the latest but not last act in a storied film and television career. White spoke on the red carpet before the awards show of her upcoming film, “You Again,” which is slated for release later this year.

“I was only 88 last Sunday, so I have lots more stuff to do,” she said Saturday.

White’s career started in local Los Angeles television during the medium’s earliest days, and her first 20 years in the business included a 1951 Emmy for the comedy “Life With Elizabeth,” and various talk-show and game-show appearances. But it wasn’t until 1973 that she became part of a TV classic, as sex-crazed “Happy Homemaker” host Sue Ann Nivens on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show.”

Betty White, left, accepts the Life Achievement Award from Sandra Bullock at the 16th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010, in Los Angeles. AP

She conceded to still getting starstruck Saturday, but added she’s never met one of her idols, Robert Redford. She was the target of a saucy joke from George Clooney, who appeared in one episode of “The Golden Girls.”

For all the praise and attention, White appeared genuinely touched and appreciative.

“It would never even have occurred to me to imagine this,” White said. “This is the highest point of my entire professional life.”

Stars of TV and film mingle at SAG Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Screen Actors Guild Awards are all about the stars of TV and film honoring their own.

That meant a slew of famous faces everywhere Saturday, from the red carpet to the ballroom to the backstage press area and onsite after-party.

HEAVY MATTERS

SAG awards are heavy for adults, but the hefty statuettes presented Saturday evening’s youngest recipients a special challenge. Jared Gilmore and Kiernan Shipka, who play Don Draper’s children on “Mad Men,” both set their awards on the floor while adult castmates fielded questions from reporters backstage.

The 12-pound, 16-inch tall trophy stood knee-high in front of Gilmore during the Q-and-A session.

The AMC series won for best ensemble cast in a television drama.

Gilmore, 9, and Shipka, 10, weren’t the only ones who found the awards, dubbed “The Actor,” to be heavy. Jeff Bridges commented on its weight a couple of times on Saturday.

BEHIND SCHEDULE

An hour into Saturday’s Screen Actor Guild Awards, things were already running a bit late.

A woman announced to the actors who had yet to receive awards to keep their acceptance speeches short. As in 45 seconds or less short.

Winners of early awards took time to thank their spouses, parents, writers and the crew members who work on their shows.

Jeff Bridges was expounding on his love of acting while claiming his best actor trophy for “Crazy Heart” when he apparently got a signal to cut his remarks short.

“Please wrap it up? Oh man!” he exclaimed before continuing on.

CELEBRITY CRUSH

A crew of walkie-talkie-wearing publicists steered the crush of celebrity traffic on the red carpet outside the Shrine Auditorium.

“Tina Fey,” one woman shouted into her headset moments before the “30 Rock” star stepped onto the carpet. Another publicist wrangled Fey, telling her, “this is the pre-show.” Seconds later, Fey was on camera.

Meanwhile, Alec Baldwin, Christina Applegate, Vera Farmiga and Tony Shalhoub found themselves rubbing shoulders as they waited in front of a maze of TV-interview platforms from “Entertainment Tonight,” “Access Hollywood,” E!, CNN and People magazine.

Cameramen followed nominee Anna Kendrick before she disappeared into the throng of celebs. A series of strobe flashes also followed Sophia Loren and Meryl Streep, who each arrived wearing shades.

A cluster of publicists used walkie-talkies to coordinate how to get the whole cast of “Glee” in one spot as stars Dianna Agron and Jane Lynch posed for photos on different corners of the carpet.

PARTY SCENE

The cast of “Glee” celebrated their victory for best comedy ensemble at the official SAG Awards after party, held inside a plush tent in the Shrine Auditorium parking lot. Star Jane Lynch cuddled with her girlfriend as the rest of the cast drank Champagne, nibbled on lobster pot pie and baked mac and cheese and posed for photos with their trophies.

Jon Hamm and his “Mad Men” co-stars also mingled, while nominee Helen Mirren chatted up fellow guests. Cheryl Hines of “Curb Your Enthusiasm” hung out with her on-screen husband, Larry David. And when she walked away, David sat alone, taking in the whole scene.

In Celebration of her New Life

†Prudenciana Hocog Santos Agulto

Better known as Chana-Ignacio

Born on December 31, 1936
Passed away in the grace of our
Lord on January 21, 2010

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband: Ignacio Palacios Agulto
Son: Ignacio Santos Agulto, Jr.
Parents: Vicente Torres Santos
Joaquina Hocog Santos
Parents In-Laws: Guillermo Concepcion Agulto
Martha Camacho Palacios
Brothers & Sisters In-Laws: Pedro H & Rita Santos
Francisco & Inocencia Santos
Sister & In-Law: Maria & Jose A. Deleon Guerrero
Brothers & Sisters In-Laws: Roman, Guillermo Jr., Daniel Agulto,
Maria & Steve Stoll, Dolores Agulto

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children & Spouses: Maria J. S. Agulto (Akiy)
Asuncion (Connie) Agulto & Children
Florentina (Leng)/Juan Lizama & Children (Grandchild)
Rainaldo (Dard)/Rita B. Agulto & Children (Grandchildren)
Leonora (Nora)/Jess Castro & Children
Violita (Viol)/Jack Diaz & Children
Guillermo (Gil) Agulto/Delcina Tudela & Children (Grandchildren)
William (Bill)/Candelaria K. Agulto & Children
Ernestina (Ern) Agulto & Children (Grandchildren)
Vicente (Ben)/Rita C. Agulto & Children
Brother: Mariano/Isabel Santos & Family
In-Laws: Francisco/Gorang Agulto, Margaret A. Retan, Jose/Carmen Agulto,
Merced/Gus Camacho, Jesus/Rita Agulto, Ana/Rick Taunton
Reared Children: Joaquina/Joaquin Aguon & Family
Rose Sharon Taimanao

She is also survived by numerous Godchildren, Nieces, Nephews, & Friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa. Rosary is being prayed at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 p.m.

On Friday, January 29, 2010, Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed immediately by interment services at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers. Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

The Family

O'Brien ends run on 'Tonight' show

NEW YORK (AP)—Conan O'Brien ended his brief tenure on the "Tonight" show with a wide smile and a guitar in his arms.

The red-haired comic joined a band led by blond-wigged comic Will Ferrell with Beck and ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons for a raucous rendition of "Free Bird." O'Brien is free to move on now himself, after accepting a $45 million buyout from NBC to leave the show he long dreamed of hosting after only seven months.

Despite the rancor that marked his final two weeks, O'Brien emotionally urged his fans not to be cynical and said their support made a sad situation "joyous and inspirational." He even thanked NBC for more than 20 years of employment but mixed in a few final jabs during the show.

Walking away instead of accepting a demotion is the hardest thing he's ever had to do, O'Brien said.

"This is the best job in the world," he said.

O'Brien will be replaced March 1 by the man he took over for seven months ago—Jay Leno. In the interim, reruns will fill the slot, followed by Winter Olympics programming next month.

Faced with the flop of its prime-time Leno experiment, NBC sought to move him back to 11:35 p.m. and asked O'Brien to move "Tonight" a half-hour later, past midnight. O'Brien refused, opening buyout negotiations that ended early Thursday, and triggering a remarkable period of late-night comics taking brutal shots at NBC and at each other.

Despite his sense of loss, O'Brien told fans Friday that "I really feel this should be a happy moment.

"Every comedian dreams of hosting the `Tonight' show and, for seven months, I got to," he said. "I did it my way, with people I love, and I do not regret a second. I've had more good fortune than anyone I know, and if our next gig is doing a show in a 7-Eleven parking lot, we'll find a way to make it fun."

AP

This Nov. 7, 2007 file photo shows Conan O'Brien in New York. On his final "Tonight" show, Friday, Jan. 22, 2010, Conan O'Brien said walking away instead of accepting a demotion is the hardest thing he's ever had to do.

Although, he quickly added, "I don't want to do it in a 7-Eleven parking lot."

Earlier, he showed a package of clips from his seven-month stint, including the mock run from New York to California used on his first "Tonight" show. He ended it with a placard saying "To Be Continued."

His future is uncertain. Fox has expressed interest in having him do a late-night show, but the network is checking with its affiliates to see if they would support it. Under his exit deal, O'Brien is free to start another show after Sept. 1. He's not allowed to give interviews or make other television appearances for three months.

Tom Hanks offered to let O'Brien keep hosting the show in Hanks' home, promising he and wife Rita Wilson would try to stay up. Steve Carell did a mock NBC "exit interview" and shredded O'Brien's key card. Neil Young sang "Long May You Run" and thanked O'Brien for supporting new music.

During his monologue, O'Brien tossed around a few ideas about what NBC might do with the studio it constructed for him when he moved to California from New York in the middle of last year.

One suggestion: "Leave the studio cold and empty and rename it `the world's largest metaphor for NBC programming.'"

O'Brien told the audience that "we have exactly one hour to steal every single item in this studio."

As soon as fans had been let in the studio, workers walked around to unscrew and remove signs posted all over that said "Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien: Audience."

Although NBC had sought to keep O'Brien, who hosted the 12:35 a.m., New York-based "Late Night" for 15 years while waiting for his shot at "Tonight," executives said the network was losing money with his show. O'Brien had lost half the audience that Leno had drawn in the time slot, slipping behind CBS' David Letterman in the ratings. O'Brien's managers said he needed more time and blamed some of the ratings troubles on the sinking fortunes of Leno and the local news programs that preceded "Tonight."

Fans waiting to see the final show expressed their support. Three fans from San Diego put up a tent and camped overnight in the rain to get in.

"He's just generally a likable guy," said Lesley Vamous, a fan from Australia. "I think that's why I like him and I watch him. He seems like an approachable guy, and most of the things he does are kind of funny."

Juliet DiFranco of West Toluca Lake, Calif., said she couldn't watch Leno like she did before. "He just seems like such a jerk for not retiring," DiFranco said.

Leno's name never came up during the show.

O'Brien asked his viewers not to be cynical.

"I hate cynicism," he said. "It's my least favorite quality and it doesn't lead anywhere. Nobody in life gets exactly what they thought they were going to get. But if you work really hard and you're kind, amazing things will happen."

A view from the winners' table

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Inside the Shrine Exposition Center, banquet tables filled with A-listers sat side by side as stars of TV and film honored their peers at Saturday night's Screen Actors Guild Awards.

But the real winners' table was off camera, in a hallway just outside the ceremony, where the night's winners came to claim their Actor statuettes. Here's a view from the trophy table at the SAG Awards:

Jeff Bridges came backstage talking on his cell phone. "It was my publicist," he said. "She called to say congrats!" "What's happening here?" He asked before signing for his trophy. Asked how it feels to win, Bridges was almost speechless. "It's being given the tip of the hat by the guys who do what you do... It's wonderful."

AP

Tina Fey accepts the award for best female actor in a comedy series at the 16th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010, in Los Angeles.

Sandra Bullock said the only word that came to mind when she won best actress was an expletive. Then, while accepting the award, "I realized I was rubbing the butt of the statue," she confessed at the trophy table.

The 19 singing, dancing members of the cast of "Glee" filled the backstage trophy area with ecstatic cheers for their best comedy series win. "Holy cow," said Jayma Mays, who plays buttoned-up school counselor Emma Pillsbury. "Do we take it?" "I want this one," Matthew Morrison, who plays teacher Will Schuester, said, fixing his eyes on one of the statuettes. "You can't. You have to sign for it," Mays said. "This is awesome," Morrison said, claiming—and kissing—his Actor statuette. "I've never kissed a guy before, but there it is." Then Jane Lynch, who plays cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester, shouted, "we're going to do a cast shot everybody!" And the whole cast followed her into the hallway.

The cast of Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds" flooded the trophy area. "I have to sign for it? Does that mean I have to return it?" Diane Kruger asked. "Oh my God, it's heavy! This would be perfect for a Tarantino movie. You could kill someone with this!" Moments later, she sheepishly said, "I should have worked out today. "

Winners Drew Barrymore and Mo'Nique ran into each other in the hallway near the trophy table. "Keep doing your thing, baby," Mo'Nique told Barrymore. "God bless us." A still trembling Barrymore made her way to claim her trophy. "Thank you so much. Do I grab it?" She asked after signing her name. "Whoa, it's heavy. It's beautiful... It takes two hands. I'm holding it like a guitar. "

Tina Fey excitedly signed for her trophy for best actress in a comedy series—and was instantly shocked at its heft. "SAG is the heaviest of any award," she said. "It weighs 100 pounds!" Fey added that she was completely surprised by her win. "I really, really expected to lose," she confessed.

Michael C. Hall, who has been nominated repeatedly for his work on "Dexter," said, "It's nice to get all the way up on stage," after finally winning a SAG Award. Hall ran into Juliana Margulies, who won for her role in "The Good Wife," at the trophy table. They hugged and air-kissed, congratulating each other.

The cast of "Mad Men," which won for best ensemble in a drama, filled the backstage trophy area, where Actor statuettes stood, waiting to be claimed. "It's like an Easter egg hunt!" Christina Hendricks exclaimed as she searched for her statuette. Robert Morse complained that he couldn't read the small type that said which award was his. "This is my 400th award," he said. "I've got a mantle full of them." After winning cast honors two years in a row, he said he hoped to be back again next year, "and I hope the trophy will be lighter!"

National Book Critics Circle prize nominees chosen

NEW YORK (AP)—Man Booker Prize winner Hilary Mantel and National Book Award finalists Jayne Anne Phillips and Bonnie Jo Campbell were among the nominees announced Saturday night for the National Book Critics Circle prize.

Other finalists include memoir writer Mary Karr, former U.S. poet laureate Louise Glueck and former National Book Award winner William T. Vollmann, cited by critics for his 1,300-plus-page "Imperial."

Joyce Carol Oates, one of the few writers as prolific as Vollmann, will receive a lifetime achievement prize, and a special award for criticism will be presented to New Yorker dance critic Joan Acocella.

Winners in six competitive categories will be announced March 11. There are no cash awards.

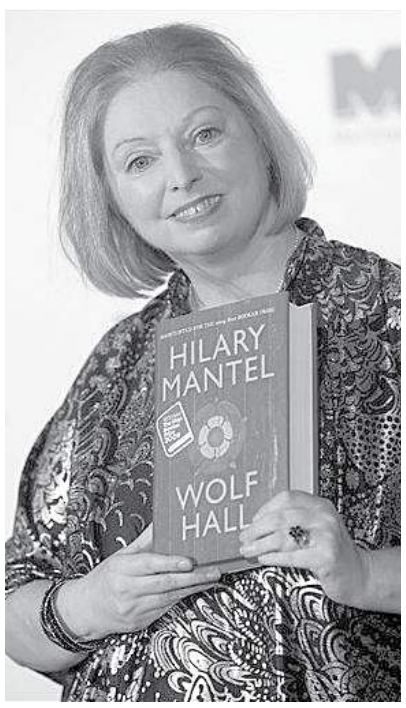
Mantel's "Wolf Hall," Phillips' "Lark & Termite" and Campbell's "American Salvage" were fiction nominees, along with Marlon James' "Book of Night Women" and Michelle Huneven's "Blame."

Karr, known for such colorful best-sellers as "The Liars' Club," was nominated in autobiography for "Lit." Edmund White, author of the classic novel "The Beautiful Room is Empty," was an autobiography finalist for "City Boy." Also nominated were Diana Athill's "Somewhere Towards the End," Debra Gwartney's "Live Through This" and Kati Morton's "Enemies of the People."

Blake Bailey's acclaimed biography of John Cheever, "Cheever," was a biography finalist, along with Brad Gooch's "Flannery: A Life of Flannery O'Connor," Benjamin Moser's "Why This World: A Biography of Clarice Lispector," Stanislao G. Pugliese's "Bitter Spring: A Life of Ignazio Silone" and Martha A. Sandweiss' "Passing Strange: A Gilded Age Tale of Love and Deception Across the Color Line."

Nonfiction nominees included Vollmann's "Imperial," a study of despair and poverty along the California-Mexico border; Wendy Doniger's "The Hindus: An Alternative History"; National Book Award finalist "Fordlandia," by Greg Grandin; Richard Holmes' highly regarded "The Age of Wonder"; and "Strength in What Remains," by Tracy Kidder, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1982 for "Soul of a New Machine."

Criticism finalists were Eula Biss' "Notes From No Man's Land," Stephen Burt's "Close Calls with Nonsense," Morris Dickstein's "Dancing in the Dark," David Hajdu's "Heroes and Villains" and Greg Milner's "Perfecting Sound Forever."



In this Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009 file photo, winner of the 2009 Booker Prize for fiction Hilary Mantel with her book ' Wolf Hall ' poses for photographers following the announcement in central London, Nominees for the National Book Critics Circle prize were announced, Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010 and include William T. Vollmann, Hilary Mantel, Jayne Anne Phillips, Bonnie Jo Campbell, Mary Karr, and former U.S. poet laureate Louise Glueck in New York.

AP

All-star Haiti telethon raises $57 million, so far

AP

In this image released by Hope for Haiti Now, Robert De Niro, left, Ellen Barkin, center, and Leonardo DiCaprio work the phone bank at "Hope for Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief", on Friday, Jan. 22, 2010 in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Organizers for the all-star "Hope for Haiti Now" telethon say the event raised $57 million—and counting.

"The public has set a new standard of giving for a relief telethon with 'Hope for Haiti Now,' and the donations continue to come in," Lisa Paulsen, president and CEO of the Entertainment Industry Foundation, said in a statement released Saturday. The group is helping to oversee the funds gathered from the event.

The two-hour telethon aired Friday night on the major networks and dozens of other channels, including MTV, Bravo, and PBS, and was also streamed live online. Stars like Brad Pitt, Beyonce, Madonna, Bruce Springsteen and more used their presence to encourage donations for Haiti, following a Jan. 12 earthquake that killed an estimated 200,000 people.

The total released Saturday includes money raised by phone, text and the Web. It does not include donations by corporations or via iTunes, where people are able to buy performances of the event for 99 cents each, or the entire album for $7.99. Those funds also go to Haiti relief.

The "Hope for Haiti Now" CD is the biggest one-day preorder in the site's history and the new song "Stranded (Haiti Mon Amour)" by Jay-Z, Rihanna, Bono and the Edge, debuted during the telethon, is the No. 1 single on iTunes.

People can donate via text, phone or through the "Hope for Haiti" Web site for the next six months. Among the organizations who will receive funds from the telethon include Oxfam America, UNICEF, and the Clinton-Bush Haiti Foundation.

'Jersey Shore' cast party overwhelms NJ nightclub

MONTCLAIR, N.J. (AP)—Police say fans of MTV's "Jersey Shore" deluged a New Jersey nightclub, forcing the closure of a thoroughfare and leading to the arrests of four people.

Property owner Dick Grabowsky told the Newark Star-Ledger that about 2,000 people showed up at the 501 Lounge in Montclair on Friday night. He says the club has a capacity of 800.

Montclair Police Chief David Sabagh says fights broke out among the crowds who gathered for the advertised meet and greet with the cast of the hit reality TV show. Four people were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and drunken driving.

Police closed a stretch of the main business strip outside the club for two hours.

The show focuses on the escapades of eight 20-somethings thrown together at a summer shore house. The stars are mostly Italian-Americans.

Thousands mourn Pendergrass at Philly service

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Thousands paid their respects to R&B legend Teddy Pendergrass at a memorial service in Philadelphia.

Pendergrass is best known as the singer of "If You Don't Know Me By Now" and other hits. He died Jan. 13 at age 59 after a battle with colon cancer.

A 200-member gospel choir sang at Saturday's service at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church. Singers such as Melba Moore and Tyrese Gibson performed. About 4,000 people attended, including actor Ben Vereen and singer Stephanie Mills.

Pendergrass was later laid to rest at a private burial service.

Pendergrass was left paralyzed from the waist down following a 1982 car crash but continued to record music.

Music producer Kenny Gamble says after Pendergrass was injured, "His life changed and he started to really give to others."

AP

In this Nov. 11, 2006 file photo, actor Andy Dick arrives for the premiere of the movie "The Fountain," in Los Angeles.

Actor, comedian Andy Dick arrested in W.Va.

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP)—Actor and comedian Andy Dick has been charged with two felony counts of sexual abuse in West Virginia.

Dick was arraigned Saturday afternoon in Cabell County Magistrate Court. Court documents say he's accused of grabbing a bouncer's crotch and groping and kissing a male patron earlier in the morning at a bar in Huntington. Magistrate Patty Verbage Spence set bail at $60,000.

"Andy is stunned by these allegations and we are strongly denying any criminal conduct," Dick's attorney, Jeff Rubenstein, said in a statement.

Spence set a Feb. 2 hearing for the 44-year-old Dick, who was in Huntington to perform at the Funny Bone Comedy Club. Funny Bone managing partner Tom Schaefer posted Dick's bail and said Dick is "absolutely still on the schedule for Saturday and Sunday."

Rob Lowe leaving ABC's 'Brothers & Sisters'

NEW YORK (AP)—Rob Lowe wants to downsize his TV family.

The actor will leave ABC's "Brothers & Sisters" at the end of the season, his publicist, Nicole Perez-Krueger, said Friday.

Lowe plays Sen. Robert McCallister, who is married to Calista Flockhart's character, Kitty. He has appeared on the drama for four seasons.

The departure was first reported by the blog Deadline Hollywood, which quoted ABC Entertainment President Steve McPherson saying that the network was in talks with Lowe for his own show.

This isn't the first time Lowe has left a role where he's part of an ensemble. He exited NBC's "The West Wing" in 2003 to star in "The Lyon's Den." The show was canceled after six episodes aired.

AP

In this Sept. 21, 2009 file photo, Rob Lowe arrives at the premiere of "The Invention of Lying" in Los Angeles.

The 45-year-old actor said in an interview with The Associated Press in November that he was excited to play a bad guy in the TV movie "Too Late to Say Goodbye" because it wasn't the romantic lead.

"Bad guys are always the best-written characters, they get to be more outlandish. Sometimes the hero in a romantic lead can be a little dull if not handled right," he said. "... On television, I'm usually playing the romantic lead. I certainly do on 'Brothers & Sisters,' and I sort of did on 'The West Wing.'"

Mom's final wishes come with a threat of haunting

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My mother is a spry, 75-year-old woman who has expressed an unusual request. She has told us "kids" that when she is called by the angels, she wants to be dressed in an aqua nightgown or PJs, and to be lying on her side. She says she will be sleeping for a long time, and she wants to make sure she's comfortable. She also says if we don't carry out her wishes, she will come back and haunt us.

I have attended many wakes, but I can honestly say I have never seen anything like this done before. What do you think?

WANTS TO DO RIGHT BY MAMA IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR WANTS TO DO RIGHT: I think it's wonderful that your mother is discussing this now—and I hope your letter will encourage more readers to begin this kind of important conversation with their loved ones.

Because the alternative is to be "haunted" to eternity, you should honor your mother's wishes. But because laws vary from state to state, readers who want to find out what the law is in their state should visit www.funerals.org and view the Personal Preference page.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My son "Pete," who is in his late 20s, has had a battle with drugs since he was 17. After numerous trips to rehab, thousands of dollars and too many heartbreaks to number, his dad and I decided to tell him he is no longer welcome in our home.

We did not reach this decision lightly. We have other children and grandchildren to consider.

We have lived in this small town all our lives. I don't know how to answer people's questions about why we have no contact with Pete or why we haven't tried other solutions. I have cried myself to sleep many nights over careless comments that have been made.

We love our son dearly, but we can no longer be his crutch to lean on. Please tell me how to answer these people without being rude and hurtful.

DESPERATE MOM IN LOUISIANA

DEAR MOM: The thoughts you conveyed in your letter are excellent replies to thoughtless people who question your decision. You DID try "other solutions." They didn't work, and there are other relatives who must be considered.

Sometimes addicts must hit bottom before they finally accept that—in the final analysis—they have to help themselves recover. If you are questioned more than once, tell the person plainly that this was a painful decision for you and your husband and to please not raise the subject again.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have purchased season tickets for the local professional hockey team from a former co-worker for the last five years. We worked together for eight years and had a good relationship until this recent issue.

This year, when I called to ask about the tickets, she informed me that she had already sold them on Craigslist. I was upset because she didn't offer them to me first. I would have paid her the asking price without complaint.

I understand that they were her tickets and she could do what she wanted with them, but I feel she was inconsiderate and rude not to at least offer them to me before selling them to a total stranger. We are no longer speaking. Who's in the right?

MAD IN MINNESOTA

DEAR MAD: She should have warned you—but if it ended the friendship, it couldn't have been much of one to begin with.

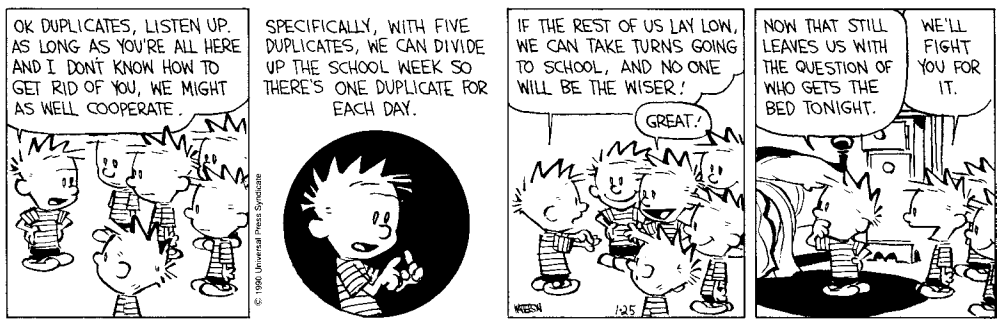
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OK DUPLICATES, LISTEN UP. AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALL HERE AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET RID OF YOU, WE MIGHT AS WELL COOPERATE.
SPECIFICALLY, WITH FIVE DUPLICATES, WE CAN DIVIDE UP THE SCHOOL WEEK SO THERE'S ONE DUPLICATE FOR EACH DAY.
IF THE REST OF US LAY LOW, WE CAN TAKE TURNS GOING TO SCHOOL, AND NO ONE WILL BE THE WISER!
GREAT!
NOW THAT STILL LEAVES US WITH THE QUESTION OF WHO GETS THE BED TONIGHT.
WE'LL FIGHT YOU FOR IT.
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1/25

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND CROSSWORD PUZZLES
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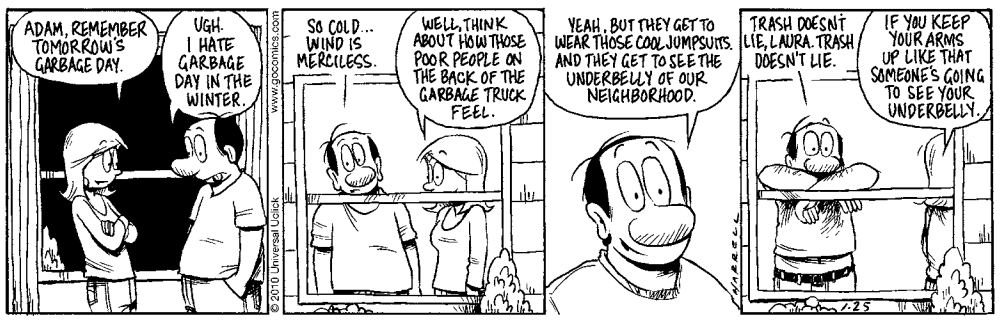
JIM DAVIS 1-25
THAT'S SUDOKU, YOU DIP
WHAT'S A THREE-LETTER WORD FOR "FIVE"?
Distributed by Universal Uclick
www.garfield.com

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM, REMEMBER TOMORROW'S GARBAGE DAY.
UGH. I HATE GARBAGE DAY IN THE WINTER.
SO COLD... WIND IS MERCILESS.
WELL, THINK ABOUT HOW THOSE POOR PEOPLE ON THE BACK OF THE GARBAGE TRUCK FEEL.
YEAH, BUT THEY GET TO WEAR THOSE COOL JUMPSUITS. AND THEY GET TO SEE THE UNDERBELLY OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.
TRASH DOESN'T LIE, LAURA. TRASH DOESN'T LIE.
IF YOU KEEP YOUR ARMS UP LIKE THAT SOMEONE'S GOING TO SEE YOUR UNDERBELLY.
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www.gocomics.com
1/25

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

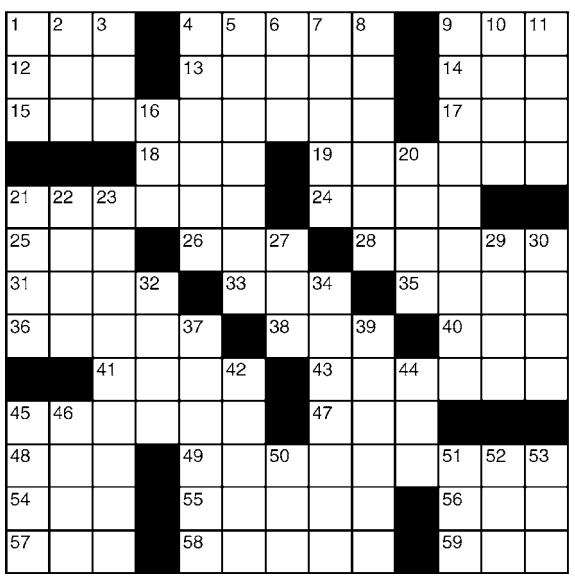
ACROSS
1 Little white lie
4 Sun-related
9 Beef moistener, on menus
12 Genetics abbr.
13 Mediterranean island
14 Multipurpose truck
15 Lake Erie city
17 Lisa Simpson's instrument
18 Clay, today
19 Care-less attitude?
21 Tyke
24 Antitoxins
25 Discoverer's call
26 Weir
28 Unpaid bills
31 Old letter opener
33 Science workplace
35 Drench
36 Clan emblem
38 Toothpaste type
40 Reuters competitor
41 Birds, to Brutus
43 Took a nap
45 Straight
47 Past
48 Part of R.S.V.P.
49 1953 Eartha Kitt Christmas song
54 Compass dir.
55 Vinegar bottle
56 Golfer's prop
57 In medias —
58 "Steppenwolf" author
59 Kitten's comment

DOWN
1 Monk's title
2 — and outs
3 Scrooge's remark
4 Climbed
5 In a circular path
6 Romanian money
7 Book of maps
8 Harvested
9 Almost
10 Provo's state
11 Alluring
16 Spigot
20 War god
21 Greatest
22 15-Across' state
23 Small TVs
27 Periodical, briefly
29 Recording
30 Hit the ice
32 Golfer Ballesteros
34 Scolds
37 Honorable guy
39 Emissary
42 Don't blink
44 Weep loudly
45 Addict
46 Three squared
50 Greek consonants
51 $ dispenser
52 Spelling contest
53 Evergreen type

Solution time: 24 mins.

E	B	B	■	R	U	T	H	■	E	K	E	S
T	O	O	■	E	R	I	E	■	I	O	T	A
N	O	M	■	I	B	E	X	■	G	L	A	M
A	S	B	I	G	A	S	A	W	H	A	L	E
■	■	■	A	N	N	■	G	A	T	■	■	■
S	E	E	M	S	■	T	O	Y	■	A	I	R
K	N	O	B	■	J	O	N	■	S	I	L	O
Y	E	N	■	G	E	M	■	S	U	L	K	Y
■	■	■	B	I	Z	■	A	C	E	■	■	■
A	W	H	A	L	E	O	F	A	T	I	M	E
V	!	E	S	■	B	O	I	L	■	C	O	Y
I	D	E	A	■	E	Z	R	A	■	O	N	E
D	E	L	L	■	L	E	E	R	■	N	O	D

Saturday's answer 1-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alicia Keys, 29; China Kantner, 39; Richard Grieve, 40; Dinah Manoff, 52

Happy Birthday: Give your all this year and you will receive the rewards you deserve. It's time to make changes to your home and your personal life. Inform others of your plans and head down that path relentlessly. The alterations you make won't be easy but they will be worth your while. Your numbers are 4, 10, 21, 24, 28, 31, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Money may be a concern but, if you spend too much time worrying, you'll end up spinning your wheels. Focus on the skills and services you have to offer and you will bypass some of the financial troubles you've been experiencing. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Be aggressive and make contact with people you think might be interested in your plans. You will be started on the road to victory. Travel, communication and a slight change of attitude will all work to your benefit. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keeping a secret may not be easy but it is essential if you want things to work in your favor. Control your spending so you aren't left short for something important. Travel will promote love and romance. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A creative idea can turn into a moneymaking endeavor. Making alterations to your home will pay off financially and do wonders for your emotional outlook. A partnership can open up opportunities that have eluded you in the past. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Tread carefully when it comes to personal issues. If you neglect someone counting on you for companionship, you will send the wrong signal. A change of scenery, company or geographical location may all work in your favor. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): If you can raise your spirits, you will do a much better job when it comes to your professional goals. Don't let someone become your burden. Offer suggestions but don't take over, pay or do the job yourself. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You will raise issues that others will disagree with. You may want to rethink your strategy in order to keep the peace and get things moving. Not everyone will agree with you today. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stop listening to what everyone else is telling you and start listening to your heart. You have to believe in yourself and your abilities. A partnership will play an important role in your life. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Long-term results should be your focus. You don't have to agree with everyone or even like what others are doing as long as you continue down a path that will satisfy your needs and your goals. Don't be guided by your emotions. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Once you evaluate what everyone else is doing, consider your own track record. Don't hesitate to take the lead and to push your opinions and methods. Aggressive action will make everyone around you realize how serious you are about what you are trying to accomplish. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't lose sight of what's going on around you. Ask questions but don't let on that you may not be happy with what's happening. Once you know where everyone stands, you can follow your own path, knowing what to expect from others. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have to work especially hard when it comes to pleasing others. Your generosity will spare your becoming involved in a sticky situation. Consider other means of making money. Don't let your emotions tamper with your decisions. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive and adventurous and you finish what you start. You stand up for your rights and don't shy away from controversy. You are true to yourself and the ones you love.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2								5
		5	7	3	8	4		
	7	6				8	9	
	2		6		5		3	
	6			9			1	
	9		3		7		4	
	3	9				2	6	
		2	1	8	6	3		
6								4

Difficulty Level ★ 1/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

4	6	5	2	9	3	1	7	8
1	3	7	4	6	8	5	2	9
9	8	2	7	5	1	3	6	4
7	4	9	5	3	6	8	1	2
6	2	3	8	1	4	7	9	5
8	5	1	9	2	7	6	4	3
5	1	4	3	7	2	9	8	6
3	7	8	6	4	9	2	5	1
2	9	6	1	8	5	4	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BIG CARS **Solution: 10 letters**

A	G	R	I	D	E	S	W	G	D	K	L	O	N	G
U	C	N	L	V	T	R	A	I	U	E	N	D	F	P
T	B	C	I	A	O	S	L	E	D	Z	E	U	O	I
O	O	R	E	T	O	O	X	O	H	E	Z	W	R	S
M	D	S	O	L	S	T	M	C	P	A	E	L	C	T
O	Y	M	I	A	E	A	I	S	M	R	U	Ⓓ	E	U
B	E	N	A	N	D	R	O	O	M	Y	Ⓞ	L	T	R
I	E	U	D	S	S	P	A	C	I	Ⓞ	U	S	H	D
L	E	I	Q	O	S	Y	F	T	Ⓗ	C	A	T	Y	Y
E	N	E	U	I	V	I	R	L	I	V	O	R	B	H
G	I	G	S	A	T	E	V	S	O	O	R	U	B	T
L	G	U	E	T	D	N	S	E	M	A	N	C	O	L
I	N	H	I	L	I	A	A	S	C	N	D	K	H	A
D	E	N	O	E	L	E	X	P	E	N	S	I	V	E
E	G	E	L	C	I	H	E	V	S	L	E	U	F	W

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Acceleration, Antique, Automobile, Body, Broad, Carry, Classic, Coasting, Drive, Engine, Expensive, Extending, Fitting, Force, Fuel, Gasoline, Glide, Guzzler, Haul, Heavy, Hobby, Hood, Huge, Load, Long, Massive, Model, Motor, Older, Power, Rich, Ride, Roomy, Seats, Smooth, Solid, Spacious, Speed, Sturdy, Truck, Trunk, Vast, Vehicle, Wealthy, Wide

Last Saturday's Answer: Balsam Sue

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- Greet new arrivals to activities, introducing them to other participants, explaining facility rules, and encouraging participation.
- Confer with management to discuss and resolve participant complaints.
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Pro Se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JOCELYN P. DOREZA, Petitioner, vs. ALLAN P. DOREZA, Respondent.	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-09-0517 SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 506693 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger of Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 31st day of December, 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Saipan Tribune

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: ATTORNEY
SALARY: $50,000 / annum plus benefits (1-2 Year Contract)

OVERVIEW: The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), the state-designated agency for protection and advocacy services to individuals with disabilities, seeks to hire someone who is energetic and committed to the cause of insuring that individuals with disabilities are free from abuse, neglect and others forms of discrimination resulting from their disabilities.

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is an exempt professional position responsible for the day-to-day legal services for eligible clients as well as managment and supervision of other program personnel assigned to provide lay-advocacy for individuals with disabilities. The Attorney will be selcted by a panel of NMPASI personnel, will report to the Program Manager and will work under limited supervision within prescribed standards, policies and procedures with considerable latitude for independent action and decision.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree;
- Admitted to Practice Law in the United States District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands; the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and
- Demonstrated interpersonal skills which allow employee to maintain productivve working relationships with co-workers, clients and other working professionals.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on Middle Road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered, they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resume, (3) Completed Application forms and (4) evidence of CNMI Bar admission. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278[tty] or email at nmpasi@pticom.com.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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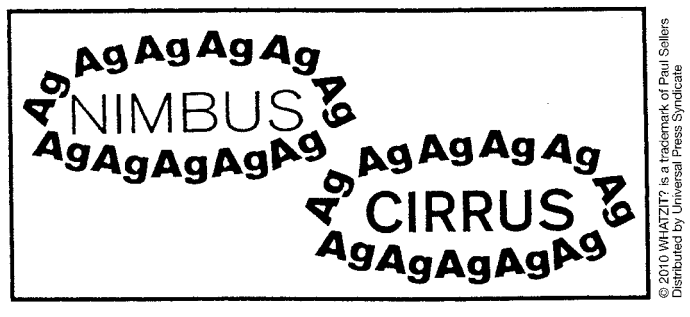
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

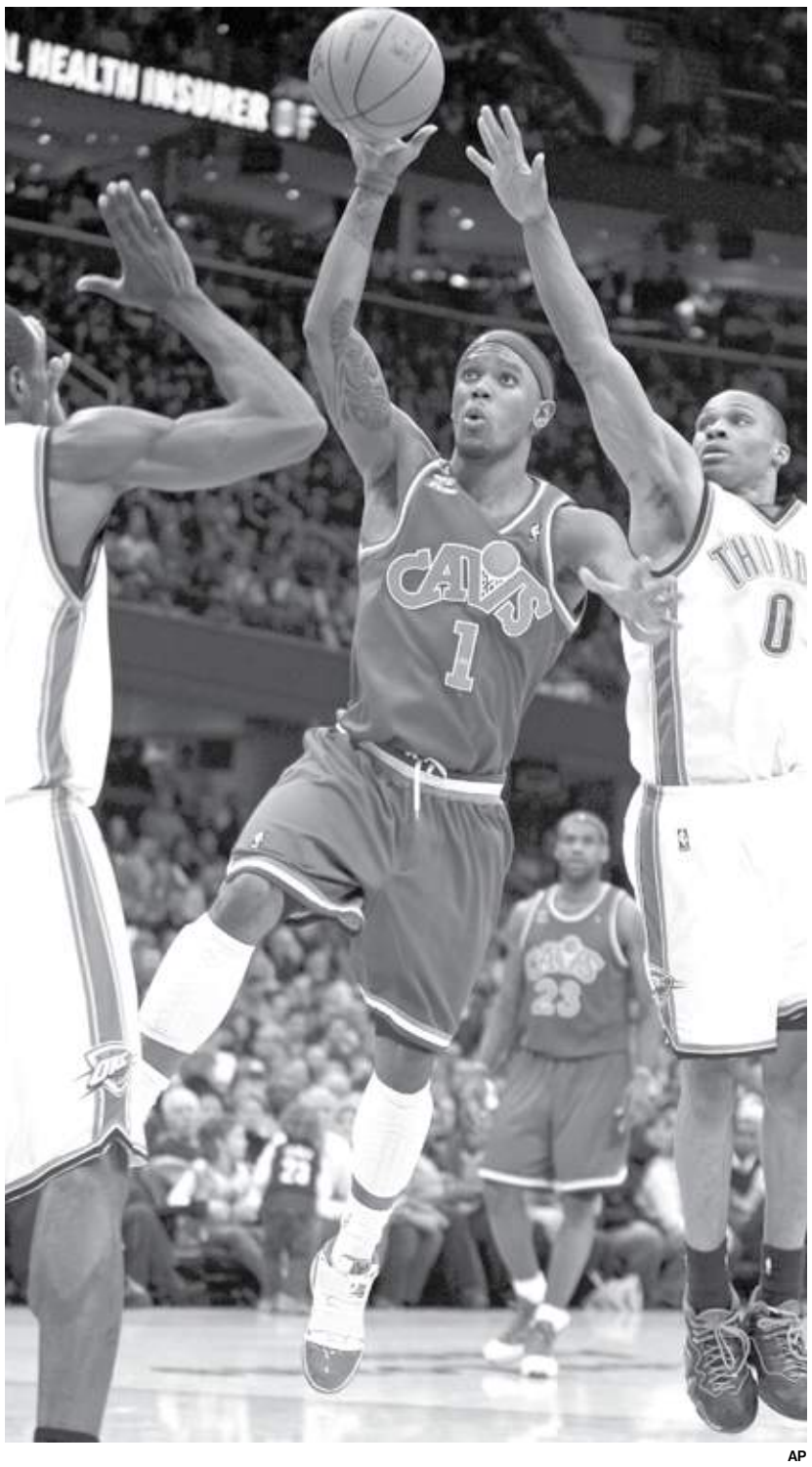
Cavaliers edge Thunder in last seconds

CLEVELAND (AP)—Daniel Gibson's 3-pointer with 8.7 seconds remaining gave the Cleveland Cavaliers a 100-99 victory over Oklahoma City on Saturday, the Thunder's second NBA loss in two nights in the final seconds.

LeBron James had 37 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds, and Shaquille O'Neal added a season-high 22 points to help the Cavaliers win their fourth straight.

Kevin Durant had 34 points, and Russell Westbrook added 23 for Oklahoma City, which lost to Memphis on Friday when Rudy Gay hit a 20-foot jumper with 1.3 seconds remaining.

Gibson's 3 gave Cleveland a 98-96 lead. Durant had a chance to tie, but his shot with 0.9 seconds left was blocked by James as Durant fell to the ground. James made a two free throws to seal it, and Durant hit a meaningless 25-footer at the buzzer.



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' Daniel Gibson (1) shoots over Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka, from Congo, (9) and Russell Westbrook (0) in the fourth quarter in an NBA basketball game Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010, in Cleveland.

Heat 115, Kings 84

At Miami, Dwyane Wade had 27 points and eight assists before sitting out the fourth quarter, Michael Beasley added 21 points and 13 rebounds and a bizarre week of blowouts continued for Miami.

The Heat beat Indiana by 30 on Tuesday, lost to Charlotte by 39 on Wednesday and won in Washington by 24 on Friday. Only one of Miami's last nine games has been decided by less than 10 points.

Tyreke Evans scored 15 points for the Kings, who finished a winless six-game trip.

Magic 106, obcats 95, OT

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Jameer Nelson scored six of his 21 points in overtime and Orlando recovered after blowing a big lead.

Vince Carter also had 21 points to help the Magic end Charlotte's home winning streak at nine. Orlando scored the first 11 points in overtime. D.J. Augustin had 22 points for Charlotte.

Trail Blazers 97, Pistons 93

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Martell Webster scored a career-high 28 points, and LaMarcus Aldridge added 21 for short-handed Portland.

Richard Hamilton led Detroit with 25 points.

76ers 107, Pacers 97

At Indianapolis, Elton Brand scored 23 points, and Thaddeus Young had 22 points and 10 rebounds in Philadelphia's second straight victory.

Allen Iverson, recently voted a starter for the Eastern Conference All-Star team, added 17 points, five rebounds and three assists. Danny Granger had 22 points for Indiana.

Iverson: Fans want to see me play

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Allen Iverson has gone from retirement to All-Star starter.

And if his critics don't feel he deserves the nod to represent the Eastern Conference, well, that's too bad. He'll be ready to play the Feb. 14 game at Cowboys Stadium.

"The way I look at it is, what should I do?" Iverson said Friday night. "Should I worry about what those people say or concentrate on the million-plus people that voted for me. To me, it's a no-brainer. My fans want to see me play and they have the right to put in who they want to put in the game.

"They voted me in, and it's an honor. I don't want to disrespect them by not participating in the game," he said.

Iverson, who returned to the Philadelphia 76ers in December, has played only 20 games this season and his 14.4 scoring average was well off his career mark (27.0). The former NBA MVP still has a loyal fanbase and he received 1,269,568 votes to earn a spot in the East lineup with Cleveland's LeBron James, Miami guard Dwyane Wade, Orlando center Dwight Howard and Boston forward Kevin Garnett.

Iverson briefly retired after an ill-fated stint with Memphis and his selection sparked criticism of the voting process.

He scored only 11 points on 4 of 14 shooting in Philadelphia's 92-81 win over Dallas on Friday night. It was the first time the Sixers won this season (1-6) when Iverson scores less than 15 points.

Iverson has been bothered by an arthritic left knee that's sometimes limited his availability. He's been an All-Star for 11 straight seasons, but missed the 2007 game because of injury.

Bulls 104, Rockets 97

At Houston, Brad Miller scored 25 points in place of the injured Joakim Noah, and Taj Gibson had 16 points and 14 rebounds for Chicago.

Derrick Rose added 20 points for the Bulls. Noah was a last-minute scratch because of a left foot injury.

Carl Landry scored 22 points for Houston.

Bucks 127, Timberwolves 94

At Milwaukee, Carlos Delfino scored 24 points, and rookie Brandon Jennings had 18 points and a career-high 13 assists for Milwaukee.

Rookie Jonny Flynn led Minnesota with 20 points. The Timberwolves have lost seven of eight.

Jazz 116, Nets 83

At Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur had 20 points and 11 rebounds as Utah kept New Jersey winless from 18 games against the Western Conference and 3-40 overall.

Carlos Boozer had 22 points and nine rebounds, and Ronnie Brewer added 15 points for Utah. The Jazz have won five of six and are seven games above .500 for the first time this season at 25-18. Yi Jianlian scored 16 points for New Jersey.

Nuggets 116, Hornets 110, OT

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored four of his 30 points in overtime and added 11 rebounds as Denver beat New Orleans for its season-high sixth straight victory.

Kenyon Martin added 20 points and 14 rebounds, and Chauncey Billups had 20 points and nine assists, and Arron Afflalo had 19 points, hitting two 3-pointers in overtime.

Chris Paul had 26 points, seven in overtime, and 10 assists for the Hornets. Darius Songaila added a season-high 20 starting in place of the injured David West.

Suns 112, Warriors 103

At Phoenix, Goran Dragic scored 18 of his career-high 20 points in the fourth quarter and Steve Nash scored 23 points for Phoenix in the Suns' 10th consecutive victory over Golden State in Phoenix.

Corey Maggette led Golden State with 27 points.

Anthony Tolliver had career bests of 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Warriors, playing without Monta Ellis (sprained right ankle).

Vikings vs Saints a tasty dish in New Orleans

NEWORLEANS(AP)—What a spicy Cajun mix for the NFC championship game.

Brett Favre, headed for the Hall of Fame someday, highlights yet another comeback by facing the team he rooted for while growing up in Mississippi.

His Minnesota Vikings—ouch, say Packers fans—are on the doorstep of their first Super Bowl trip in 33 years, with the 40-year-old quarterback resembling the wide-eyed youngster who took Green Bay to the title in the very same Superdome in 1997.

And those Superdome tenants, the New Orleans Saints, are hosting a conference championship for the first time. A Super Bowl would provide a massive lift for a city still recovering from Hurricane Katrina's devastation and torment more than four years ago.

A Saints victory Sunday could set off Mardi Gras a few weeks early, with the celebration carrying on right up until the Feb. 7 big game in Miami.

Along with those tasty story lines, remember that these are the NFL's two highest-scoring teams, with offensive playmakers who can light up scoreboards and make fans' heads spin.

But they also have such defensive standouts as Vikings All-Pro end Jared Allen, who led the NFC with 14 1/2 sacks; Saints end Will Smith, who was second to Allen with 13; and New Orleans All-Pro Darren Sharper, a ball-hawking safety who ran back three of his league-leading nine interceptions for touchdowns and, incidentally, was dumped by the Vikings last year after four seasons in Minnesota.

TV couldn't come up with a better script for prime-time viewing.

"It's hard to explain," Favre said. "But as exciting and as exhilarating as the win is, the reality is I was fortunate enough to win one Super Bowl (1997 in New Orleans), the next year we lose one. And I think more about the one we lost than the one we won. I can't explain it to you how that feeling is, so the championship game is no different. I've always treated every playoff game like it's the Super Bowl."

Few of the Saints (14-3) have been in such a position. As a long-under-achieving franchise since their founding in 1966, the Saints have been to exactly one conference final, losing at Chicago three years ago. This is just their seventh time in the playoffs in a 44-year existence perhaps most renowned for their fans wearing paper bags on their heads - nope, Favre never went that far growing up—and dubbing the team Aints.

Their recent success, particularly in the 2006 season following a year as nomads because of Katrina, has been inspiring. The prospect of being host in the rebuilt Superdome—a symbol for New Orleans as important as the Golden Gate Bridge is for San Francisco—has locals in a frenzy. One of the great party cities in America, New Orleans might be ready for an unprecedented celebration if the Saints conquer the Vikings (13-4).

"Sometimes you have to make those tough decisions and fight through adversity in order to kind of achieve what you thought you maybe might not be able to achieve otherwise," Saints quarterback Drew Brees said.

Brees' arrival as a free agent in 2006, along with that of coach Sean Payton, began the difficult turnaround in the Big Easy.

"I would say this city having gone through what it's gone through, and this organization having gone through what it's gone through over the past five or six years before Katrina and post-Katrina, has allowed us to have the opportunity that we have now. It's hardened us, given us an edge," he said. "But, in the end, it's made us tougher. It's brought us together. It's united us. That's all for the better."

The Vikings never have been the better team in Super Bowls. They are 4-4 when getting this far. Then, zippo.

Of course, Favre was in elementary school the last time Minnesota won the NFC. Most of the other Vikings weren't even born then.

The Vikings prefer to ignore their history. Those Super Bowl losses belong to another generation; yes, even Favre is not part of that generation.

Favre understands this won't be a homecoming, either.

"I don't think too many people down there will be compassionate that I am with the Vikings coming in," he said. "They've waited a long time for it. That's going to be a factor that we have to handle, obviously. I think it goes without saying how happy I am that we have this opportunity."

Nadal, Murray to meet;
Petrova upsets Kuznetsova

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray held off two of the tallest men and biggest servers in tennis on Sunday to set up a quarterfinal meeting at the Australian Open.

Defending champion Nadal had a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over 6-foot-10 Ivo Karlovic of Croatia, the tallest man on the tour.

In the previous match at Rod Laver Arena, No. 5 Murray overcame 6-foot-9 American John Isner 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-2. Murray hasn't dropped a set in four matches.

Over on Hisense Arena, Nadia Petrova advanced with another upset, beating third-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 to reach the quarters.

In the other section of Petrova's half of the draw, Zheng Jie set another national mark by becoming the first Chinese player to reach the quarterfinals at Melbourne Park with a 7-6 (6), 6-4 victory over Alona Bondarenko.

Nadal, who beat Roger Federer in the final here last year to capture his first major on hard courts after four titles at the French and one at Wimbledon, said the strategy against Karlovic was just not to blink.

"Just be focused all the time, move the legs, because you going to have a lot of points only with one shot," said Nadal, who was already looking ahead to a different style of match against Murray.

AP

Britain's Andy Murray shouts as he won a point against John Isner of the U.S., during their Men's singles fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday Jan. 24, 2010.

"Being the quarterfinals is a very good news for me ... I'm going to have a very difficult match against Andy," Nadal said. "It's completely different. He's one of the more talented players on the tour. he can play aggressive, play offensive

"I want to play my game. ... If not maybe I will have a good flight home."

Murray is into the Australian Open quarterfinals for the first time. He lost the U.S. Open final to Federer in 2008, his only trip to a Grand Slam final, and knows he'll probably have to beat both Nadal and Federer to claim his first major.

The 22-year-old Scot rated Isner's serve among the best in the game, so he was delighted to wear down the American after a crucial service break in the eighth game of the second set. He fended off break-point chances in the next game to serve out the set.

"It's tough. I had my coach serving at me from the service line this morning to try to get used to it," Murray said. "But once you get out there it's kind of tricky."

Murray broke serve again in the seventh game of the third set when Isner netted a forehand and then smashed his racket into the court in disgust.

"It's been good. I moved really well since the start of the tournament," Murray said. "I didn't drop a set yet ... not too much to complain about."

The loss was Isner's first of the year, which started with his first career ATP title at Auckland.

Kuznetsova was only playing her second tournament of the year and was coming off a late finish to her third-round win, wrapping up the match at almost 2 a.m. Saturday after being four points from defeat in a match that started late Friday.

Kuznetsova committed 52 unforced errors compared to 22 winners and had her serve broken three times in the deciding set after rallying in the second to level the all-Russian match.

No. 19 Petrova had a stunning 6-0, 6-1 win over U.S. Open champion Kim Clijsters in the third round. Her run to the quarterfinals equals her best run at the Australian Open. Her best run at a Grand Slam was to the French Open semifinals twice.

Petrova will meet the winner of the all-Belgian match later Sunday between former No. 1 Justine Henin and Yanina Wickmayer, who reached the semifinals at the last U.S. Open.

"You have to play well if you beat Kim 6-0, 6-1," Kuznetsova said of Petrova. "Sure, Kim was not at her best level to lose like that. It's not only Nadia who played good.

"But definitely (Petrova) is playing at her best level that I seen her lately. And my level was lower than I have to play."

Zheng had already matched her own previous best run at Melbourne Park by reaching the fourth round, but is still a win away from equaling her best performance at a Grand Slam.

The 26-year-old Zheng made a stunning charge to the Wimbledon semifinals in 2008, becoming only the second wild-card entry and first Chinese player to reach the semis at a major.

"I think Australia is lucky for me because I win the first Grand Slam doubles title in Australia," said Zheng, who won the Australian Open and Wimbledon doubles titles in 2006 with Yan Zi. "So I'm so happy I'm in the quarterfinal of Australia also."

She and No. 16 Li Na both reached the fourth round here, the first time two Chinese players have reached that stage at the same Grand Slam tournament. With one on each half of the draw, Zheng said they can both go further.

"But I think we can go the far way," she said. "I hope we can be in the semifinal for both Chinese player, yet."

Bondarenko, seeded No. 31, had been on an eight-match winning streak after a title run at Hobart last week, which included a quarterfinal win over Zheng.

U.S. Open champion Juan Martin Del Potro was in action later Sunday against No. 14 Marin Cilic, and No. 7 Andy Roddick faced No. 11 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile.

On Saturday, top-ranked Roger Federer and Australian hope Lleyton Hewitt progressed to a fourth-round meeting. The winner of that will advance to a quarterfinal against the victor between Nikolay Davydenko, who is on a hot 12-match winning streak, and last year's semifinalist Fernando Verdasco.

The Williams sisters moved a step closer to a semifinal meeting, with defending champion Serena beating No. 32 Carla Suarez Navarro and Venus advancing 6-1, 7-6 (4) over Australian wild-card entry Casey Dellacqua.

Sun comes out, Prugh surges at Hope Classic

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP)—Alex Prugh's last name rhymes with "Who?"

That's a good question—and a good young player leading the Bob Hope Classic.

The 25-year-old PGA Tour rookie surged ahead when the sun finally came out Saturday, shooting a 7-under 65 on the tough La Quinta course to take a one-stroke lead over Bubba Watson and fellow tour rookie Martin Flores.

With his third straight remarkably consistent round in the five-round, four-course tournament, Prugh pulled ahead at 21-under 195. Yet if the former University of Washington star had any strong feelings after his second straight bogey-free round, Prugh wasn't letting on.

"I was almost bored with myself a little bit," said Prugh, who trailed Watson by two strokes entering the third round. "It's not a bad thing. I was hitting the driver very well, and I kept on hitting fairway after fairway. ... Boring rounds are actually fine with me."

Prugh thinks the pro-am format keeps him away from any mental dangers that might otherwise arise from leading a PGA Tour tournament after three rounds. Perhaps helping amateurs with their game prevents him from overthinking his own.

Whatever the magic formula, Prugh is the first rookie to lead a round at the event since John Senden took the second-round lead in the 2002 tournament eventually won by Phil Mickelson.

"I'm just trying to entertain my amateur partners as well as I can, and hopefully they get their money's worth when they're out here," Prugh said.

Flores was every bit as impressive as Prugh, shooting the second straight 65 of his bogey-free tournament to pull into a tie with second-round leader Watson (68), who rallied after a slow start on the Arnold Palmer Private course.

Joe Ogilvie (68) was four strokes back at 17 under. Chad Collins (69), Tim Clark (67) and Bill Haas (66) were 16 under, and Mike Weir (67) was 15 under.

After rain washed out play Thursday and threatened Friday, the players finally reveled in perfect Palm Springs scoring weather. Amateurs, celebrities and pros alike were thrilled to see fewer fairway marshes and more sturdy greens, but two unheralded rookies made the biggest splashes by crowding around Watson, who's also seeking his first PGA Tour victory.

The long-hitting Watson was in prime position to pull away a bit after doing well on the two tougher courses during the rainy first two days, but he was 1 over after eight holes on the Palmer course Saturday before stringing together four birdies on the back nine. Although he's touting a new mental attitude this season, Watson couldn't help jabbing himself after wasting a chance.

"I just played bad," said Watson, the tour's second-longest driver last year. "The 68 was getting a lot out of my round today, so I'm not mad at a 68. It's just (that) I wanted to play better. My caddie kept yelling at me, trying to get me to pay attention and stay focused. I just hung in there."

After finishing 72nd last week at the Sony Open, Prugh played as well as a Pacific Northwest native might be expected to do on the Hope Classic's two rainy days. He shot an opening-round 64 on the easier Nicklaus Private course at PGA West, followed by a steady 66 on Friday at the Palmer course.

Prugh has played 41 straight holes without a bogey, while the 27-year-old Flores has yet to make a bogey in the tournament. The Texas native seemed a bit more excited than Prugh about the auspicious debuts of two Nationwide Tour regulars last year.

"There's a first for everything, and I just seemed to be very comfortable in this situation for some reason," said Flores, whose last bogey was on the 17th hole of his final round at the Sony Open last week. "I don't know why that is. I never want to come off as arrogant, but ... I'm just confident in my game, and I like that right now."

Prugh and Flores both played on the Nationwide Tour last year. Prugh won the New Zealand Open and earned his PGA Tour card by finishing 16th on the money list, while Flores didn't do particularly well in his nine starts, but earned his card by finishing fourth at the national qualifying tournament.

After two weeks, Prugh hasn't found the PGA Tour competition to be a whole lot stiffer than on the Nationwide Tour. With none of the tour's top 35 players in the Hope Classic field, he might have a point.

"The competition level is very similar," Prugh said. "I think you're very well prepared after coming out of there."

Manny still hoping to fight Floyd

BOXING

Reigning pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao is confident a ring date with Floyd Mayweather Jr. will still happen, even as the replacement foe for his Mar. 13 bout, Joshua Clottey, made plans to fly to Ghana to address a big trainer problem.

In a report by CNN.com, Pacquiao said: "I'm still hoping a fight with Mayweather will be pushed through, maybe by summer time."

Meanwhile, Clottey's trainer was denied a United States visa, throwing off the fighter's training schedule.

Trainer Godwin Nii Dzanie Kotey and assistant trainer Daniel Clottey were stuck in Ghana after

encountering visa problems.

"An officer looked into the documents I had with me and he wrote something that they (were) going to do investigations and give me a call," Kotey told Joy Sports' Nathaniel Attoh.

In a separate interview with Eastsideboxing.com, Kotey said: "We are very disappointed. Now, Joshua is all alone in the US and even if he's training, there's no supervision."

Clottey was a replacement for Mayweather when the bout between the last two boxers to hold the mythical pound-for-pound throne collapsed because of disagreements over drug-testing protocols.

Pacquiao has said the negotiations cast him in a bad light and he'd try to prove he doesn't use performance-enhancing drugs.

"I want to clear my name because I'm a very honest person," the reigning WBO welterweight champion told CNN. "I'm very disappointed for what he accused me of. I'm clean. I'm not cheating. I'm a very honest fighter."

PROSPECTS

From Page 28

Ol'Aces were in their usual slow-paced game, but this time the ploy backfired on them, as young guns Dan Barcinas and Pete Iguel lost their rhythm in the second half after a long stint on the bench in the third period.

Actually, Ol'Aces got off to a good start, taking a 7-0 lead in the opening quarter. They led by as much as nine in the first period before Cadagat sparked Prospects' rally, canning triples. The flashy guard hit three treys and finished the first period with 13 points to tie the match, 22-all.

Prospects tasted the lead for the first time, 26-24, on Aughenmbaugh's layup in the early minutes of the second canto. It was a seesaw battle then and the first half ended with Ol'Aces ahead by only a hair, 33-32.

In the third period, Ol'Aces started with their veteran crew with Elias Rangamar, Ed Diaz, Romeo Iginoef, and Peter Camacho on the court. Jack Lizama joined Ol'Aces' starting five in the second half as their youngest member.

Ol'Aces began falling apart in the third due to its limited options on offense, as Barcinas and Iguel came in only in the last three minutes of that period. To make matters worse, Camacho, who scored six straight markers at one point in the third quarter, got injured after landing on his own foot.

Cadagat picked up where he left of in the third period and this time, he slowly drew support from his teammates. Cadagat tallied seven points and his three teammates scored at least four points apiece, helping Prospects led by as much five in that canto.

In the fourth quarter, Prospects led by as much as 12 and Barcinas and Iguel tried to revive the collapsing Ol'Aces in the fourth quarter, but to no avail.

Barcinas' muffed Ol'Aces chances to recover when he committed two errors in the stretch. The first one was when he went for a fastbreak play and pass the ball to the wrong man.

Before that error, Prospects was ahead by only three, 65-68, and Aughenbaugh made in a four-point game after nailing a free throw off a Barcinas foul. Aughenbaugh missed his second penalty shot and Barcinas grabbed the rebound. The Ol'Aces player then went for a pitch, but his pass was too strong, missing Igue's hands.

Paul sealed the win with his four free throws, while Peredo and Johnson added one charity apiece.

Ol'Aces' 68 points was their lowest output in nine games in the league. In the regular season, Ol'Aces tallied 631 points for an average of 90 points per game.

Prospects 75 – Cadagat 32, Peredo 13, Paul 8, Aughenbaugh 7, Johnson 7, Wright 4, Pagarao 4.

Ol'Aces 68 – Barcinas 17, Iguel 11, Lizama 10, Camacho 8, Olaitiman 6, Tumaquip 5, Omar 3, Diaz 2, Rangamar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-22, 32-33, 51-47, 75-68.

JAPANESE

From Page 28

Memorial Park, clocking in at 1:37:33. Oshima-Berger's time was faster than last year's winning time (1:42:56) Japanese Kurara Tanaka posted.

Japanese Yasue Nakahara finished second in the women's division with her 1:41:18, while compatriot Yuki Kurihara claimed third place after recording 2:01:13

It was Oshima-Berger's first time to win the event, as she failed to make it to the Top 3 in the first two editions of the race. She added she did the race in 2008 and 2009 with her dog.

"But this year, he can't join because he is too old. I am happy I won, but I am also a bit sad because my dog wasn't able to join us in the race," Oshima-Berger said.

Oshima-Berger and most of the participants enjoyed a relatively easy course, which took runners from the AMP, going up to Navy Hill through the coffee plantations and past XTERRA Saipan Championship trails leading to Mt. Tapochao and back to AMP.

"The course was fine though it had been raining the past week. The trails were not that slippery and the weather was great," Oshima-Berger said.

The 80 runners who registered for the event were greeted by a cold morning at the starting line and enjoyed cruising the trail in a cloudy weather before heavy rains poured just in time when the last three runners in the long course were a few meters away from the finish line.

In the short 10-kilometer course, Florence Antonio crossed the finish line in 57:03, to beat Jake Vandam (58:33) and Gigo Tomokane (59:39).

In the women's division, Akane Imaya placed first with a time of 1:12:22, followed by Wantha Aldrich (1:15:59) and Amanda Allen (1:22:28).

SWEEP

From Page 28

The Hustlers dropped to second place anew, losing to the Voyagers by only a point this year. The Hustlers also failed to notch the Bud Cup championship trophy they won in 2008.

Playing for the Hustlers were Agingan division MVP Jerry Soriano, Senen Pangelinan, Rowel Mariano, Joey Lucido, Erwin Gomez, Jomer Enriquez, and Robert Sanciangco.

The third place trophy went to D'Pirates Huwa, which had Ray and Tero Takai, Ray Basa, Jess Pangelinan, Joey Dela Cruz, Primo Ferrera, and Simeon Kapileo as members.

In the Obyan division, Wild Bills Shark Attack prevailed over two USSP Bar-supported teams.

Leading Wild Bills Shark Attack was Obyan division MVP Nong Detdon. Also on the team were Patrick Taitano, Vince Mareham, Ben Norita, Bill Limes, Mike Katsuke, Dan Eugenio, and Bernard Kileleman.

USSP's Fotten Palau and Watever settled for second and third place, respectively. Fotten Palau had Taylor Watanabe, Ron Chisato, Annie Tesiro, Mei and Rick Rengiil, John Mongami, and Arnel Aberta on its roster. Watever was composed of Rose and Ken Philips, Norman Tenorio, Joe Shoking, Nolas Kalinga, Quintin Ngirarois, and Joel Salamat.

Besides awarding trophies to the Top 3 finishers in each division, organizer Pacific Amusement, Inc. also handed special awards.

Trophies were given to 8-ball on the break champions Jojo Talibong, Hamoy, James Wabinga, and Marlito Baisaule in the Agingan division and to Obyan division's Mongami.

In the run the rack category, Nolan Cultura won in the Agingan division, while Kileleman took the same award in the Obyan division.

Hamoy was named most improved player, while VFW Sentinel claimed the sportsmanship award.

SML

From Page 28

cheer for both teams in this friendly competition."

The team arrived Sunday morning from Seoul and will be accompanied by television media. The entertainer-players are Shin Dong Ho, Kim Hyung Jun, Jung Han Lim, Her Jun, Lee Kyung Pil, Cho Hyun Joon, Lee Hyun Bae, Oh Ji Ho, Han Min Kwan, Marcos Benjamin Lee, Kim Chang Youl, and Lee Deun Bae. The team is managed by Pak Jee Yung and coached by Kim Jang Hoon. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	28	13	.683	–
Toronto	22	22	.500	7 1/2
New York	17	25	.405	11 1/2
Philadelphia	15	28	.349	14
New Jersey	3	40	.070	26

Southeast Division

Atlanta	28	14	.667	–
Orlando	29	15	.659	–
Miami	23	20	.535	5 1/2
Charlotte	21	21	.500	7
Washington	14	28	.333	14

Central Division

Cleveland	34	11	.756	–
Chicago	20	22	.476	12 1/2
Milwaukee	18	24	.429	14 1/2
Detroit	15	28	.349	18
Indiana	15	29	.341	18 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	28	15	.651	–
San Antonio	25	17	.595	2 1/2
Houston	24	19	.558	4
Memphis	23	19	.548	4 1/2
New Orleans	23	20	.535	5

Northwest Division

Denver	29	14	.674	–
Portland	27	18	.600	3
Utah	25	18	.581	4
Oklahoma City	24	20	.545	5 1/2
Minnesota	9	36	.200	21

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	33	10	.767	–
Phoenix	26	19	.578	8
L.A. Clippers	19	23	.452	13 1/2
Sacramento	15	28	.349	18
Golden State	13	29	.310	19 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 107, Indiana 97
Orlando 106, Charlotte 95, OT
Portland 97, Detroit 93
Cleveland 100, Oklahoma City 99
Miami 115, Sacramento 84
Chicago 104, Houston 97
Milwaukee 127, Minnesota 94
Denver 116, New Orleans 110, OT
Utah 116, New Jersey 83
Phoenix 112, Golden State 103

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	37	375	316	1100	29.7
James, CLE	44	452	329	1308	29.7
Durant, OKC	43	417	360	1255	29.2
Bryant, LAL	43	451	263	1219	28.3
Wade, MIA	42	400	293	1135	27.0
Ellis, GOL	41	421	198	1071	26.1
Nowitzki, DAL	42	381	271	1061	25.3
Bosh, TOR	44	367	319	1059	24.1
Roy, POR	40	328	213	924	23.1
Arenas, WAS	32	253	153	722	22.6
Jamison, WAS	33	267	135	719	21.8
Johnson, ATL	42	347	121	887	21.1
Stoudemire, PHX 21.0		44	351	222	924
Randolph, MEM 20.9		42	348	176	876
Evans, SAC	38	291	189	792	20.8
Gay, MEM	40	313	166	825	20.6
Maggette, GOL	40	261	291	822	20.6
Kaman, LAC	38	324	126	774	20.4
Jackson, CHA	41	298	168	822	20.0
Duncan, SAN	39	309	160	778	19.9

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	198	311	.637
Howard, ORL	240	397	.605
Gasol, MEM	233	386	.604
Hilario, DEN	228	387	.589
Horford, ATL	244	418	.584
Stoudemire, PHX	351	624	.563
Bynum, LAL	256	457	.560
Landry, HOU	246	441	.558
Lee, NYK	339	610	.556
Millsap, UTA	175	319	.549

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	43	161	401	562	13.1
Noah, CHI	41	160	344	504	12.3
Camby, LAC	41	128	357	485	11.8
Lee, NYK	42	101	377	478	11.4
Randolph, MEM	42	189	288	477	11.4
Wallace, CHA	40	84	361	445	11.1
Bosh, TOR	44	129	357	486	11.0
Boozer, UTA	42	82	366	448	10.7
Haywood, WAS	41	174	263	437	10.7
Duncan, SAN	39	121	289	410	10.5

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	34	381	11.2
Nash, PHX	44	487	11.1
Rondo, BOS	40	385	9.6
Williams, UTA	38	365	9.6
Kidd, DAL	43	395	9.2
B. Davis, LAC	42	340	8.1
James, CLE	44	343	7.8
Westbrook, OKC	43	318	7.4
Arenas, WAS	32	230	7.2
Duhon, NYK	42	262	6.2

BOB HOPE CLASSIC SCORES

LA QUINTA, California (AP) – Scores Saturday from the Bob Hope Classic, a $5 million US PGA Tour event at four par-72 courses: 6,950-yard p-PGA West Palmer Course; 6,890-yard n-PGA West Nicklaus Course; 7,060-yard q-La Quinta Country Club; 7,403-yard s-SilverRock:

THIRD ROUND

Alex Prugh	64n-66p-65q–195
Bubba Watson	66q-62s-68p–196
Martin Flores	66p-65n-65s–196
Joe Ogilvie	65p-66n-68s–199
Tim Clark	70n-63p-67q–200
Chad Collins	67p-64n-69s–200
Bill Haas	68q-66s-66p–200
Mike Weir	67p-67n-67s–201
J.P. Hayes	65p-67n-70s–202
Steve Elkington	69p-65n-68s–202
D.J. Trahan	69p-68n-65s–202
Kevin Na	69p-66n-67s–202
Ryan Moore	69q-67s-66p–202
George McNeill	65q-72s-65p–202
Derek Lamely	68p-69n-66s–203
Ryan Palmer	72s-67q-64n–203
Richard S. Johnson	69n-69p-65q–203
Matt Kuchar	67q-69s-67p–203
Jason Dufner	72s-67q-64n–203
Charles Howell III	68n-69p-66q–203
John Merrick	68q-70s-66p–204
Kevin Streelman	70s-71q-63n–204
Brandt Snedeker	70p-69n-65s–204
Garrett Willis	65n-69p-70q–204
Kevin Stadler	67s-69q-69n–205
Webb Simpson	67p-72n-66s–205
Fredrik Jacobson	70n-67p-68q–205
Matt Jones	69n-67p-69q–205
Lee Janzen	69s-70q-66n–205
Chris DiMarco	72n-67p-66q–205
Paul Goydos	69p-69n-67s–205
Scott McCarron	67n-71p-67q–205
Jeff Overton	68p-68n-69s–205
Jeff Klauk	66q-72s-67p–205
John Senden	68q-69s-68p–205
Pat Perez	68s-69q-68n–205
Carl Pettersson	73n-66p-66q–205
Brian Gay	71p-65n-70s–206
Tom Gillis	68p-66n-72s–206
Matt Bettencourt	71n-66p-69q–206
Heath Slocum	66p-72n-68s–206
Ricky Barnes	67q-72s-67p–206
Justin Rose	70s-67q-69n–206
Vaughn Taylor	66n-67p-73q–206
Brett Quigley	71q-66s-69p–206
Ryuji Imada	67p-71n-68s–206
Bill Lunde	68n-68p-71q–207
Rod Pampling	67q-70s-70p–207
David Toms	70q-70s-67p–207
Graham DeLaet	71q-69s-67p–207
Chris Wilson	69n-67p-71q–207
Brendon de Jonge	73n-67p-67q–207
Roger Tambellini	66q-71s-70p–207
Greg Chalmers	70p-69n-68s–207
Jeff Quinney	64n-74p-69q–207
Troy Merritt	72s-70q-66n–208
Bob Estes	68q-72s-68p–208
Omar Uresti	70n-67p-71q–208
Kevin Sutherland	69n-71p-68q–208
Jamie Lovemark	71q-71s-66p–208
Brenden Pappas	68n-70p-70q–208
Jimmy Walker	71s-68q-69n–208
Shane Bertsch	62n-69p-77q–208
Henrik Bjornstad	68p-70n-70s–208
Justin Bolli	70p-71n-67s–208
Chris Couch	71s-72q-66n–209
Greg Owen	74p-65n-70s–209
Bo Van Pelt	73s-70q-66n–209
Ben Crane	70q-69s-70p–209
Jason Bohn	69s-72q-68n–209
Joe Durant	71s-69q-69n–209
Jerod Turner	69n-69p-71q–209
Michael Sim	73q-67s-69p–209
Josh Teater	71s-69q-69n–209
Jay Williamson	71n-68p-71q–210
Ted Purdy	70n-69p-71q–210
Briny Baird	68p-67n-75s–210
Chez Reavie	71q-71s-69p–211
Scott Verplank	70q-74s-67p–211
Charley Hoffman	69s-72q-70n–211
Billy Mayfair	71p-71n-69s–211
Cameron Percy	70q-70s-71p–211
Blake Adams	74p-68n-69s–211
D.A. Points	70n-71p-70q–211
Jesper Parnevik	68s-69q-74n–211
Harrison Frazar	72q-72s-68p–212
Tim Petrovic	67s-75q-70n–212
Brian Davis	73s-70q-69n–212
James Nitties	71s-69q-72n–212
David Duval	74p-65n-73s–212
Billy Horschel	77s-68q-67n–212
Michael Bradley	74q-68s-70p–212
Boo Weekley	71p-74n-67s–212
Sam Saunders	74q-67s-71p–212
Jeff Maggert	76p-67n-70s–213
Chris Tidland	72q-72s-69p–213
Rich Beem	71s-74q-68n–213
Matt Every	69q-71s-73p–213
Rocco Mediate	75s-71q-67n–213
Nicholas Thompson	72n-71p-70q–213
Chad Campbell	79s-70q-64n–213
Alex Cejka	70p-74n-70s–214
Mark Brooks	70q-71s-73p–214
Marc Turnesa	69p-70n-75s–214
Garth Mulroy	73n-72p-69q–214
Mathew Goggin	76p-71n-68s–215
Jeff Gove	72p-69n-74s–215
Kris Blanks	69n-75p-71q–215
Chris Stroud	71n-68p-76q–215
Mark Calcavecchia	71s-77q-68n–216
Cameron Beckman	67q-74s-75p–216
Martin Laird	73n-72p-71q–216
Kevin Johnson	76n-75p-65q–216
Daniel Chopra	73q-71s-73p–217
Johnson Wagner	75q-70s-73p–218
Justin Leonard	75s-71q-72n–218
John Mallinger	74s-76q-68n–218
David Lutterus	75s-70q-74n–219
Rickie Fowler	74s-70q-75n–219
Scott Piercy	76n-71p-72q–219
Steve Lowery	71q-76s-73p–220
Greg Kraft	75s-73q-72n–220
Steve Flesch	71p-78n-71s–220
Woody Austin	77s-70q-73n–220
Chris Baryla	71q-78s-72p–221
Craig Stadler	76s-75q-71n–222
Brad Faxon	70n-73p-79q–222

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Intense week for basketball teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hotly contested basketball playoff games in the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League overshadowed the chilly nights the island experienced last week.

First on the list was Noni Saipan's nail-biting 74-73 overtime win over Diamond Fixers.

Banjo Basila canned a free throw amid the strong winds in the last seven seconds of the extension period to move Noni to the semifinals against Ol'Aces.

Next up was Advance and Prospects' semis duel, which also needed an extra five minutes to decide the winner.

Advance had a chance to win the match in regulation, but Leo Factor missed a bonus free throw in the last three seconds of the fourth quarter to give Prospects the opportunity to clinch the game in extension.

Prospects went on to take a117-102 triumph in overtime after Advance lost its players one after another in the extra period.

The victory advanced Prospects to the finals against Ol'Aces, which defeated Noni Saipan, 81-66. Prospects drew first blood in the best-of-three finals, notching a 75-68 in Game 1 on Friday.

With teams fighting for dear life in these thrilling matches against the frigid condition at the Garapan Basketball Court, there were several instances players lost their cool and were meted with penalties.

Prospects' Ernie Moses and Advance's William Opone were suspended for 10 and 15 games, respectively, for separate elbowing incidents. Diamond's Tim Wesley was barred from playing five matches in UBA-sanctioned league after attempting to punch a Noni player.

Following the announcement of the suspension of three players, UBA also disclosed the winner of the MVP award for the regular season. Noni's Kae Bernardo took home the trophy Friday night, getting the nods of the UBA board and committee members.

Still in basketball, the semifinal cast in the masters division of the PILCOWA caging was completed with Cool Water prevailing over GEC Pawnshop in a playoff game, 108-77, at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

Over at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, the MHS Dolphins and Saipan Southern High School split their games, while Grace Christian Academy broke into the win column.

The Dolphins topped the Rays in the junior varsity game, 51-43, while the latter prevailed in the varsity match, 45-30. The GCA Eagles, which lost their debut over Kagman High School downed Mt. Carmel School in the varsity division, 64-38.

In bowling, Percy Omechelang overcame sickness to win the 2008 Budweiser King of the Lanes title.

Omechelang played in the season-finale roll-off with flu, but still defeated Alex Castro in two games in the championship round, 384-361. Omechelang along with Queen of the Lanes Ron Cal and Prince of the Lanes Raphael Zapanta were feted in the SBA awards ceremony at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

Also honoring its winners was the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League.

SEDA held a banquet for the Top 3 finishers in seven divisions at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MVP award winners show their plaque during the banquet for 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Regular season MVP Kae Bernardo, center, of Noni Saipan, is joined by UBA president James Lee and Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Cool Water's Noel Mateo, left, prepares to make a baseball pass to a teammate after beating David Fer, right, in the rebound play during their playoff game in the PILCOWA caging last week at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Diamond's Bruce Berline, center, is sandwiched by Noni Saipan's Sonny Lerio, right, and Bart Demapan during their playoff game in the UBA caging at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Advance's Pando Muleta is trapped in the baseline by Prospects' Alex Lauron during their semis game in the UBA caging at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
2009 Budweiser King of the Lanes champion Percy Omechelang is flanked by runners-up Richard Leong, left and Alex Castro, during an awards ceremony at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A MHS player loses the ball as he is tightly guarded by two Southern defenders during their game in the MISO caging at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Nadal, Murray to meet; Petrova upsets Kuznetsova

Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray held off two of the tallest men and biggest servers in tennis on Sunday to set up a quarterfinal meeting at the Australian Open. 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Intense week for cage teams

Hotly contested basketball playoff games in the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League overshadowed the chilly nights the island experienced last week. 27

'Japanese Express,' Mamiko top Coffee Trail

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The "Japanese Express" beat "Road Runner Bunny" to the finish line of the 3rd Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run.

Japanese runner Miyachi Fujio, nicknamed "Japanese Express" was the first overall finisher in the 10-mile course, timing in at one hour, 27 minutes, 29 seconds. Fujio failed to eclipse last year's winning time of 1:21:12, but managed to improve from his bridesmaid finish in 2009. Fujio placed second to running coach and compatriot Handa Yunosuke in last year's race.

The victory in the Coffee Trail on Saturday was Fujio's second triumph in long distance races this year. Early this month, Fujio won the Lantau Mountain Marathon in Hong Kong. Fujio's win also foiled a Saipan sweep in the long course.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, nicknamed the "Road Runner Bunny," failed to give Saipan a first place finish when he clocked in only the second best time in the men's division at 1:30:11. Korean runner, but Saipan-based Keum Bae Jae was the third overall finisher in the men's division, submitting a time of 1:32:30.

Saipan's Mamiko Oshima-Berger was the sixth overall finisher, but was the first woman to reach the finish line at Micro Beach at the American

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Florence Antonio, Mamiko Oshima-Berger, and Miyachi Fujio raise their arms in triumph after crossing the finish line during the 3rd Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run on Saturday.

Prospects inch closer to title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Game 1 belonged to Bonbon Cadagat and Prospects.

Cadagat did most of the damage, offensively, and left the dirty job to his teammates to lead Prospects to a 75-68 win over Ol'Aces in Game 1 of their title series in the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League on Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Game 2 will be played tonight at 7pm with Prospects hoping to sweep the short best-of-three finals and Ol'Aces eyeing to extend the series.

Cadagat exploded for 32 points in the series opener in a no-relief effort, making shots all over the court and wowing the crowd with his long triples, fadeway jumpers, and fancy dribbling.

Complementing Cadagat's offensive savvy was his reliable crew.

Derrick Aughenbaugh showed courage in attacking Ol'Aces' interior defense in the first half when most of his teammates were having second thoughts in the paint. Big men Chris Paul and Mike Wright held their own in the rebound department, limiting Ol'Aces' second chance points.

Then there was Errol Peredo, whose foul-baiting moves netted him 13 points and helped Prospects pull away in the fourth. Quincy Johnson was held to six points after a 38-point performance in the semis, but was still efficient in distributing the leather to his teammates and harassing Ol'Aces ball handlers. Relievers Jeff Pagarao and Alex Lauron also contributed, giving their tired starters breather to prepare for the tough grind ahead.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Prospects' Cadagat, left, dribbles past Ol'Aces Mike Olaitiman during Game 1 of their title series in the UBA caging on Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

SML players to host Korean entertainers

Local baseball players in the Northern Mariana Islands will host a team of Korean entertainers for a friendly game today.

The game will kick off at 8pm at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield in Susupe, pitting a team from the Saipan Major League against the "Invincible Baseball Team" of Korean comedians, fashion models, singers, and actors.

"This is another unique opportunity for our islands to gain some positive exposure in Korea," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "We encouraged the community to come down and

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Sweep for IT&E Voyagers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Voyagers emerged as the big winners in Saipan Billiards Association's 2009 Winter/Spring Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after taking home two championship trophies yesterday during the awards banquet at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

The IT&E and Jonny's Bar & Grill-backed Voyagers topped the Agingan division of the league and also won in the Bud Cup. The team is composed of Rolly Villanueva, R.J. Mascarinas, Roman Rodriguez, Jojo Talibong, Luis Fajardo, Chester Hamoy, Chester Cuento, and Ric Villanueva.

It was a successful title defense for the Voyagers, who also ruled the same division during the 2008 winter/spring season, downing perennial river Docomo Hustlers.

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The IT&E Voyagers pose with their championship trophies and supporters during Saipan Billiards Association's 2009 Winter/Spring Budweiser Open 8-Ball League awards banquet yesterday at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO